

day, May 17

Tenacity wins
interview award

LONDON (AP) — BBC journalist who a senior cabinet member the same question — and still failed to straight answer — gave a top guest Royal Television Society presented Jeremy Wright with an award for one of the year. Pannan, renowned for his and front, was questioned by Michael Howard in a row over the of a prison on the Wright. He asked the he had stepped in to intervene when Derek I. who served in the responsible for a "Did you think it was a joke?" Derek I. Pannan asked, "I'm going back to the question every time I asked a direct question."

France grants
asylum to Algerian
transsexual

PARIS — France granted political asylum to an Algerian transsexual, a move that the government said was a landmark decision. The transsexual, who was identified as "Djamel", had been living in France for several years and had been persecuted in Algeria for his sexual orientation. The decision was made by the French government's highest administrative court, the Council of State, which ruled that the transsexual's life in Algeria was in danger and that he needed protection. The decision is seen as a significant step towards the recognition of transsexuals' rights in France.

Eels to demonstrate
spirit of Northern
Ireland peace deal

BIRMINGHAM — An eel demonstration is being held in Birmingham to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The demonstration, which is being held in the city's central business district, is a symbol of the peace and reconciliation that has been achieved in Northern Ireland. The eels, which are being released into the city's waterways, are said to be a symbol of the peace deal. The demonstration is being held in the city of Birmingham, which is one of the most diverse cities in the United Kingdom. The eels are being released by a group of people who are dedicated to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Singing duo gets
Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES — A singing duo has been named as the new Hollywood star of the year. The duo, who are known for their powerful voices and harmonies, have been nominated for the award. The duo consists of two women who have been performing together for several years. They have been praised for their talent and their dedication to their craft. The award is a significant recognition of their work and their contribution to the music industry. The duo is excited to be nominated and is looking forward to the ceremony.

Susan Lucci falls
short at Emmys

NEW YORK — Susan Lucci, who has been nominated for the Emmy award for her role in the television series "Desperate Housewives", has fallen short of winning the award. Lucci, who has been nominated for the award for several years, was not able to secure the win this year. The award was won by another actress. Lucci, who is a well-known actress, was disappointed but praised the judges for their decision. She said that she was proud to be nominated and that she would continue to work hard to improve her performance. The award ceremony was held in a grand hall and was attended by many celebrities and fans.

Iran launches military exercises

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran on Sunday began three days of war games to beef up its air force's combat readiness and test new military equipment, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The manoeuvres, in the southern port town of Bushehr, involve 800 air force personnel from seven different air bases across the country, the agency reported. Iran will also launch missiles using real ammunition during the games codenamed "Moharram," it said. F-4, F-5, and F-7 fighter bombers will launch mock air attacks against a hypothetical enemy, the agency quoting Iranian Brigadier General Siyavosh Moshiri as saying. Two planes that have been repaired following damage during Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq will also be tested during the games, Gen. Moshiri said.

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Clashes resume in Hebron Musa: It is dangerous to let Israel go unchallenged

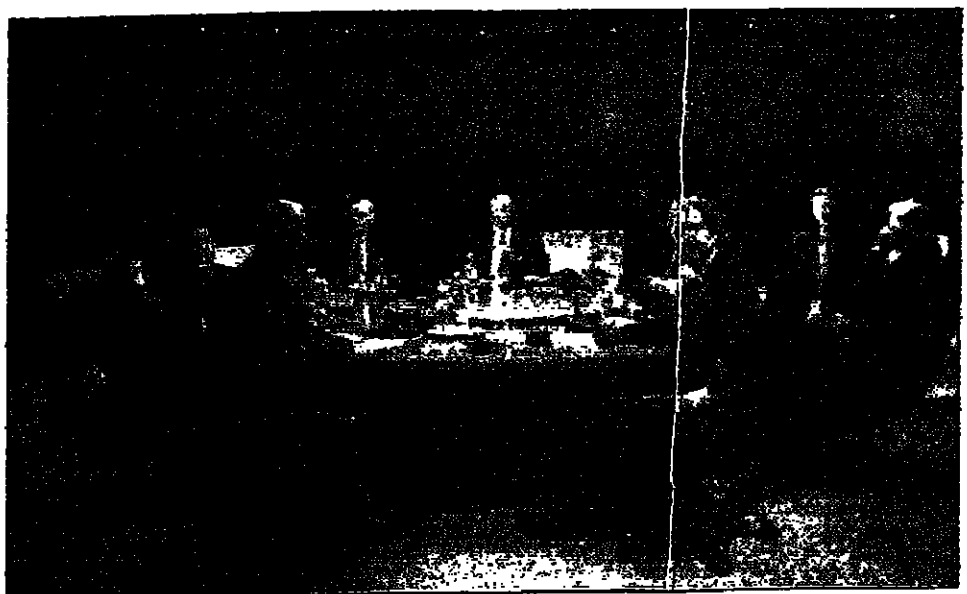
HEBRON (AP) — Palestinian stone throwers clashed intermittently with Israeli troops in this West Bank city Sunday and two Palestinians were reported wounded. Palestinian youth threw stones and bottles at Israeli soldiers who responded with rubber bullets in the fourth day of clashes that started with Thursday's marking of "nakbeh," or catastrophe, which is how Palestinians view Israel's founding 50 years ago. Two Palestinians were slightly wounded by rubber-coated metal pellets, reporters said. On Thursday, five Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli forces. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Sunday it would be "dangerous" to let Israel go unchallenged after its refusal to accept U.S. proposals to restart the peace process. "It is dangerous to let Israel go on unchallenged with its policies and without confronting it over its refusal of the peace process," Mr. Musa told reporters at Cairo airport.

Mr. Musa was speaking on his departure for London where he will address a meeting of the Palestinian community and hold talks on Monday with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. Later Monday Mr. Musa travels to Paris to link up with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who starts a three-day state visit to France which will focus on the deadlocked Arab-Israeli peace process and bilateral ties. "President Mubarak's visit to France comes at a very important and decisive moment" for the peace process, Mr. Musa said. Mr. Mubarak and President Jacques Chirac of France will discuss the stalemate and efforts to bolster the European role in the peace process, he said. On Saturday Mr. Musa accused Israel of "unacceptable manipulation" in proposing a nine per cent pull back from the West Bank despite a U.S. proposal for a 15.1 per cent pull-out.

World leaders close summit with nuclear restraint appeal 'It is a matter of when, not if, Pakistan will test'

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Leaders of the world's most powerful nations ended their annual summit Sunday with an appeal to Pakistan not to respond to India's nuclear explosions. But Pakistan said it will hold its own nuclear test. As the leaders held closing news conferences, some of them repeated rumours sweeping Birmingham that a test blast was set off in Pakistan earlier Sunday. But Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub told the Associated Press the rumours were false, although a decision has been made to test. U.S. President Bill Clinton condemned India's five nuclear explosions and the possible response as a "nutty way to go" and said the testing risks drawing Pakistan, China and Russia into an escalating conflict. At separate closing news conferences in Birmingham, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto each said they had heard the rumours that Pakistan set off a nuclear blast Sunday. British Prime Minister Tony Blair also said he'd heard the reports. In Islamabad, Mr. Ayub told the AP: "It is an incorrect information... absolutely no," saying the rumours came from New Delhi. But Mr. Ayub also said the decision has been made to conduct a nuclear test. "It is a matter of when, not if, Pakistan will test... The decision has already been taken by the cabinet," Mr. Ayub said in a telephone interview in Islamabad. Pakistan earlier called the Group of Eight (G-8) statements on the nuclear test issue a "weak response." In a final communiqué, eight presidents and prime ministers said the challenge they face is to ensure that the benefits of open trade and closer connections between nations worked to "improve the quality of life of people everywhere." But the heat of a South Asian nuclear arms race and chaos in financially strapped Indonesia overshadowed the annual summit, which was followed by a meeting between Mr. Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose country is now a full summit partner. The G-8 leaders condemned the Indian blasts and expressed "grave concern" in a special statement that they

repeated in their final communiqué. But because of reluctance by Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, they failed to endorse sanctions, as urged by the United States, Japan and Canada. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, at a closing news conference, said the leaders' decision that "individual countries will have their own individual responses" to India's nuclear tests was the right thing to do. Mr. Clinton, in interviews before the close, said it was the strongest statement that could be obtained from the leaders, which also included heads of Russia, Japan, Canada, Italy, Germany and France. Mr. Blair called upon Pakistan to resist entering the nuclear club and upon India to join a global nuclear ban, saying its actions "gravely weakened the security of the world." "It is important that they realise the huge international concern that having done these tests now, particularly with what we're hearing in terms of what Pakistan may do, it is essential that they come within the comprehensive treaty process," Mr. Blair said. While the communiqué was full of sweeping generalisations about building a more prosperous world, the talk among the leaders was about the more immediate threats. Mr. Clinton, in a broadcast interview, said India's nuclear explosions risked drawing Pakistan, China and Russia into an escalating conflict. They pledged increased efforts to boost health care and education programmes in Third World countries and open their markets further to imports from developing nations. The document stressed the need to make sure the fruits of globalisation were more widely shared by all income groups in their own countries. To that end, the leaders pledged greater efforts toward "building lasting growth in our own economies in which all can participate, creating jobs and combating social exclusion." The leaders held three days of discussions dominated by the crisis in India and deadly anti-government riots in Indonesia. On Indonesia, Mr. Clinton said in an interview broadcast by the BBC that Indonesian President Suharto, in power for 32 years, must find a way to "deal with all elements of society on some sort of democratic basis... This is not a hopeless situation yet." Mr. Blair, interviewed alongside Mr. Clinton on both the BBC and CNN, said the turmoil in Indonesia underscored the need for greater financial stability to promote global prosperity. "What we can do is try and devise the right architecture for the financial systems of the world which leads to greater stability, more openness and more transparency," Mr. Blair said. The G-8 leaders also urged voters in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to approve a referendum Friday on a peace deal providing for Catholic-Protestant power-sharing in the troubled British province. In the BBC interview, Mr. Clinton predicted a victory for the accord. "All of us have hope and fear inside," said Mr. Clinton. "I think on election day, the clear-headedness of the Irish people will prevail in Northern Ireland." While the G-8 leaders failed to agree on a proposal supported by Mr. Blair to erase the debt of the world's poorest nations, the British prime minister tried to put the best face on the disagreement, insisting that "the world's powers were united in the goal of cutting debt, especially to the poorest African nations."



G-8 world leaders including (centre/clockwise) German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President of the European Commission Jacques Santer, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien attend the final session of the G-8 economic summit of the most industrialised nations held in Birmingham Sunday (AFP photo)

Renewal, consolidation of bonds of friendship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Sunday, attended a celebration for the renewal and consolidation of the bonds of friendship between the British Household Cavalry and the Arab Army represented by the Royal Guard's Brigade. At the celebration, the standard of the British Household Cavalry was handed over to Hamzeh Ben Abdul Mutaleb Brigade. The celebration is traditional, first marked on June 1, 1946 when the Arab Legion presented the Household Cavalry with the Standard as an expression of the bonds of friendship between the two brigades. At the celebration, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal family members and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, officers from the Royal Guard's Brigade and the British Household Cavalry delivered speeches to mark the occasion. King Hussein later met units from the Royal Guard Brigades and watched an aerial performance by the British Red Arrows.



Photos by Youssef Allan

Israeli president requests Arab family treated as 'victim of terrorism'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli President Ezer Weizman demanded Sunday that the family of an Arab man stabbed to death last week by a suspected Jewish extremist be compensated as a "victim of terrorism." After visiting the family at their Arab east Jerusalem home Sunday morning, Mr. Weizman submitted a formal request to the Israeli social affairs ministry for compensation payments normally accorded to Israeli victims of Arab activist attacks to be paid to the family of Khairi Mussa Alqam. "Any murder, whether it be of Arabs or Jews, is a very grave matter," Mr. Weizman told reporters after the visit. He said the family should receive the routine payments for "victims of terrorism" amounting to monthly payments linked to the victim's income and the number of surviving family members. Alqam, from Arab east Jerusalem, was stabbed to death last week as he was walking to work across the ultra-Orthodox Jewish quarter of Mea Shearim. It was the sixth stabbing of an Arab in the neighbourhood in three months and police said they suspected the assailant was a Jewish extremist taking revenge for a series of attacks on Jews in Arab east Jerusalem's Old City. The earlier victims of the serial stabber survived.

Jordan, U.S. launch 'Infinite Moonlight'

AMMAN (Agencies) — The United States has launched month-long, live-fire military manoeuvres with Jordan involving marines and sailors of the Navy's 5th fleet. A U.S. Defence Department statement received by news agencies on Sunday said the combined field exercise began Thursday. It did not say how many troops were taking part in the manoeuvres, codenamed "Infinite Moonlight 98," nor exactly where it is taking place. Army officials were not immediately available for comment, but a similar live-fire exercise last year, involving 1,000 Americans and a similar number of Jordanians, was held in the desert town of Qatana, 120 kilometres south of Amman. The statement said the exercise is designed to demonstrate U.S. commitment to regional security and increase cooperation between U.S. amphibious forces and the Jordanian Armed Forces. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the exercises which will last from May 14 to June 16 are held to help raise the efficiency and skills of the Jordanian Armed Forces, enable these forces to gain combat experience and learn about advanced and modern military equipment. Since Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, Washington has donated \$300 million worth of military supplies, including 16 F-16 jet fighters, tanks and helicopters to the Kingdom. American forces conduct joint exercises with several Arab countries, including Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Yemeni government sworn in, opponents see no change

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh swore in a new government on Sunday but opposition leaders said the lack of fresh faces dashed hope for change in the impoverished Arab country. "The new government was sworn in before the president this morning... the president is now presiding over a meeting giving some instructions for the government to redouble efforts during the coming period," a Yemeni official told Reuters. The 30-member cabinet, headed by Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Al Iryani, was appointed on Saturday, two and a half weeks after Faraj Said Ben Ghanem resigned as premier over differences with the president. Key portfolios such as defence, oil and mineral resources, finance and the interior were unchanged. Only three new faces were brought in. "The announcement of the new — old — government asserted that there is no intention for change or an attempt to bring improvements... there is no hope for us in the future," said one opposition leader who asked not to be named. An official told Reuters on Saturday the new government would present its programme to parliament within days, adding that the plan was expected to resemble that of Mr. Ben Ghanem. Mr. Ben Ghanem quit on April 29 after less than a year in office. Officials said he tendered his resignation after Mr. Saleh rejected cabinet changes he had proposed. Yemen, a small oil producer which pumps about 385,000 barrels of crude a day, is in the midst of economic reforms launched in 1995 under the aegis of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Amin Ali Amin, a leading member of the opposition Islamist Islah Party, told Reuters: "In fact, there is no difference between members of the old government and those in the new cabinet since they are all members of the ruling general People's Congress Party." The only major cabinet change was the appointment of former Yemeni Planning and Development Minister Abdul-Qader Bagammar to deputy premier and foreign minister, a portfolio previously held by Mr. Iryani. One political commentator said the small changes in the cabinet "reflected the wisdom of the leadership." "The ministers must stay in their positions so that they can continue their special tasks, especially since they assumed their responsibilities less than a year ago," the analyst said. "Major changes in government during short periods consume time because it requires reorganising the ministries and thus diverts efforts," he said.

Rebels hit Algerian town, troops kill 38

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim rebels hit an Algerian town with mortar bombs on Saturday night wounding six people, including two women, Al Aci and Le Matin dailies said. Army artillery hit back to silence the rebel mortars, they said. It was the fourth time that rebels had bombarded the Blida region where the armed forces have their main headquarters and bases. At least two people died and 43 were wounded last month when guerrillas pounded downtown Blida for several hours. Six civilians were killed and a dozen wounded last October when Blida city and neighbouring Ouled Aich area were hit, according to Algerian newspaper reports.

2 Home & Middle East News

Jordan Times, Monday, May 18, 1998

Arafat heads to Oslo for meeting, reported talks with Barak

Sheikh Yassin refused visa to South Africa, Arafat visits in August

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat left Sunday for Oslo to attend a meeting of the Socialist International and reportedly have talks with Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak.

Mr. Arafat will be in the Norwegian capital Sunday and Monday to attend the meeting of social democratic movements and hold talks with Norwegian officials, his office said.

Israeli media reported that Mr. Arafat would also meet

with Mr. Barak in Oslo later Sunday, their first direct encounter in several months.

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper said Mr. Barak, head of the Israeli Labour Party, would urge Mr. Arafat to do his utmost to prevent new outbreaks of violence in the Palestinian territories following clashes with Israeli troops last week which left five Palestinians dead and scores wounded.

Before leaving, Mr. Barak told reporters that Mr. Arafat remained the central partner for

the peace process and he criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the 14-month-old stalemate in peace negotiations.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat is to pay a state visit to South Africa in August, South African President Nelson Mandela's office said Sunday.

Mr. Arafat would brief Mr. Mandela on the Middle East peace process and discuss bilateral relations, said Mr. Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana.

The visit, Mr. Arafat's first to South Africa since he attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration in 1994, would last more than a day. The exact dates had not been fixed.

The announcement comes after the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, failed to get a visa to visit South Africa earlier this month.

South Africa is understood to have bowed to PNA fears over the effect Sheikh Yassin's visit would have on the Mideast peace process.

Iraq says India has right to acquire nuclear bombs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's ruling party on Sunday supported India's nuclear tests, saying the South Asian superpower has as much right as the five declared nuclear powers to possess the arms.

"We cannot see how anyone can ask India not to develop nuclear weapons and its long-range missiles at a time it is like any other big state with its human and scientific potential," the Baath Party's newspaper, Al Thawra, said.

The commentary is Iraq's first reaction to the five nuclear tests India conducted last week. The explosions triggered a storm of

international criticism.

India has refused to sign a global disarmament treaty, saying it unfairly gives the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, France, China, Britain and Russia — the right to keep their nuclear weapons while demanding others to dismantle theirs.

India says it wants full disarmament by all countries.

"When superpowers give themselves the right to conduct nuclear tests and keep huge arsenals of nuclear bombs they lure other countries to follow suit, overtly or covertly," Al Thawra said.

It also pointed out that Israel

maintains a nuclear arsenal that, although never officially acknowledged, is believed to contain about 100 warheads.

Al Thawra said Arab countries should not remain idle at a time when Israel's arsenal contains all sorts of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery.

Iraq also had an advanced clandestine nuclear programme before the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait. Under the ceasefire conditions, it had to scrap the programme, which according to U.N. weapons inspectors was only a year away from producing a bomb.

Besides the nuclear pro-

gramme, Iraq must also dismantle its chemical and biological weapons programmes before U.N. trade sanctions imposed to punish its 1990 invasion of Kuwait are lifted.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council, which issued a Baghdad weekly, owned by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said India has agreed to enroll several groups of Iraqi engineers "in advanced technological courses" scheduled for mid-July. It did not elaborate.

Relations between Iraq and India have traditionally been friendly.

Algerian journalist sentenced to year in jail

GENEVA (R) — An Algerian journalist has been sentenced to a year in jail, three days after being arrested in Algiers as he prepared to fly to a media conference in Geneva, conference organisers said on Sunday.

Al Kadi Ihsane, 39-year-old former editor of the Algerian newspaper La Tribune, was at no time prior to the sentencing informed of the charges against him or given access to a lawyer, the Geneva-based International Centre for Humanitarian Reporting said.

Mr. Al Kadi, who had been arrested on Wednesday, was brought before a judge on Saturday and told that he had been sentenced earlier this year to 12 months in jail, on charges of having insulted or threatened the former director of the newspaper L'Horizon in 1993.

Mr. Al Kadi's lawyers said he was aware of neither the arrest warrant nor the sentence in absentia. He had been working in Algiers and signing articles with his own name, indicating that he was not attempting to hide from the authorities.

Aziz in Rome on mission to get U.N. sanctions dropped

ROME (AFP) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Rome Sunday for talks with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi as part of a diplomatic offensive by Iraq to lift U.N. economic sanctions.

Mr. Aziz is on a European tour to seek what he has called a "rigorous and fair interpretation of United Nations resolutions so that sanctions against Iraq can be lifted."

Mr. Aziz will also meet Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and other government leaders. He arrived from Paris where he was received by French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister

Lionel Jospin.

Iraq is demanding an end to the sanctions, imposed on Baghdad for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But the embargo will be lifted only after U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors verify that Iraq has eliminated its long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Iraq says it has fulfilled the conditions.

Mr. Aziz said in an interview Saturday it was "important that the U.N. objectively assess what has been accomplished" in dismantling Iraq.

However, Mr. Aziz said that UNSCOM has "expanded its

demands" and these demands "have nothing to do with disarmament."

Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo's Arabic service he said Iraq was ready for a rapprochement with fellow Arab countries "without exception."

"Our hand is extended and our mind is open for any dialogue to arrive at an understanding with Arab brothers without exception."

Mr. Aziz urged U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan at a surprise meeting in Paris last Tuesday to help to overcome obstacles delaying the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
15:10 Cartoon — Highlander
15:30 Drama — Raider of the South Pacific
16:00 Drama — Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — Last Frontiers
17:00 French Programme — Thalassa
18:00 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Hope and Gloria
20:00 Doc. — Perspective
21:10 Doc. — 99-1
22:00 News in English
22:30 Law and Order
23:10 Bay Watch Nights
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:32 Maghrib
21:01 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624833/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Warm weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Amman, it will be hot and dusty, winds southerly moderate, and seas rough.

Min/Max temp.
Amman 18/33
Aqaba 23/39
Deserts 17/36
Jordan Valley 21/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 5827195
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq 788285
Dr. Youssef Nasser 751144
Dr. Khalil Ramadan 774397
Firas pharmacy 5661912

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdi 5661317
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdi 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/25
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5607155

OVERSEAS CALLS

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 463638
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdi 5661317
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdi 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/25
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5607155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700).

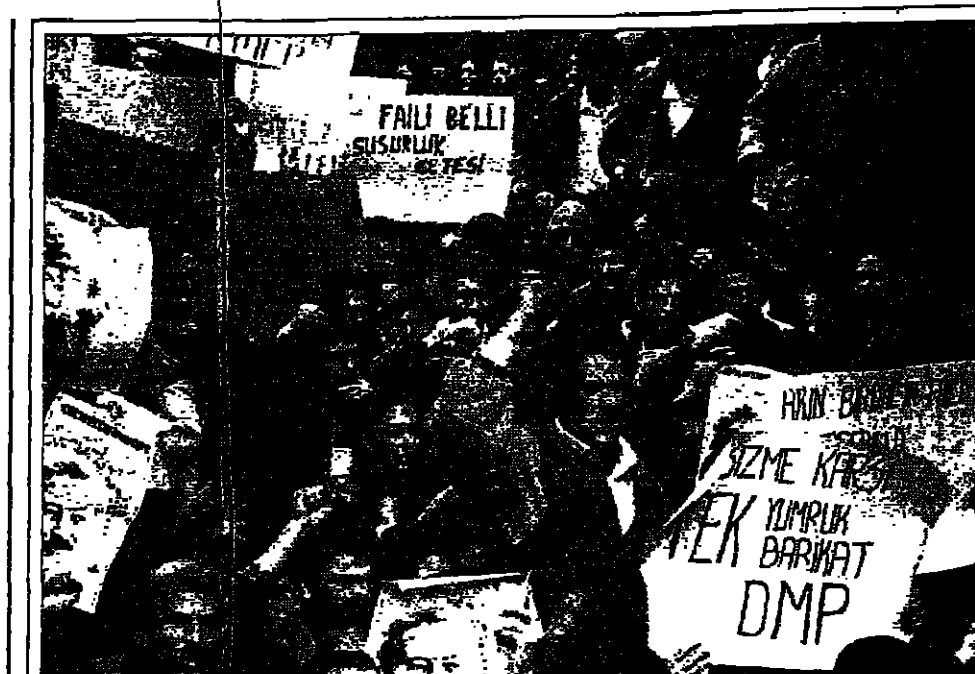
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:45 Sanaa (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:40 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights
06:15 Istanbul (TK)
06:35 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
08:20 London (AF)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
11:30 Cairo (MS)
15:00 Bahrain (GF)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
16:30 Doha (QR)
16:45 Istanbul (SD)
20:45 Dubai (EK)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:15 Khartoum (SD)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)



DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE IN ISTANBUL: A protester chants slogans Sunday while others stage a sit-in protest in front of the human rights association office in Istanbul against the shooting last week of the country's leading human rights campaigner. The head of the association, Akin Birdal, was shot and wounded by two gunmen in his Ankara office last Tuesday. Over a thousand protesters also marched through the streets in Ankara toward the hospital where Birdal is receiving treatment (Reuters photo)

Ex-IRA member says Syria gave millions after Mountbatten's killing

LONDON (AP) — Syria paid the Irish Republican Army about \$3.25 million after the outlawed organisation killed Earl Mountbatten in 1979, a former IRA member said Sunday.

The attack on the earl, the last viceroy of India and an uncle of Prince Philip, also killed his 14-year-old grandson and another boy when their small boat was blown up off the Irish coast.

Sean O'Callaghan, a former senior IRA member who became a police informer, is publishing a book about his exploits.

The story of the Syrian payment is one of those coming out before the book, which is to be serialised in The Daily Telegraph this week.

The Sunday Telegraph, a sister newspaper, reported that Mr. O'Callaghan said Syria gave the IRA \$3.25 million in September 1980, a year after Mountbatten's death.

On Sunday, Mr. O'Callaghan told BBC Television the attack "was not primarily done at the Syrian government's instigation," but "it was because of a series of contacts that led through Russian military intelligence to the Libyan state, and indeed the

PLO were involved in it, as were the Syrian government."

Libya has been the IRA's most significant international sponsor. Much of the group's current dormant arsenal of weaponry, including plastic explosives and anti-aircraft missiles, was donated by Libya and smuggled by ship in the mid-1980s. The IRA paid for earlier shipments in the mid-1970s. During both periods, senior IRA figures also travelled to Beirut in a far less successful bid to build supply and financial links with Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the BBC interview, Mr. O'Callaghan agreed with the interviewer's point that the money was a reward "after the event."

The attack provided the IRA with money and proved "they were now a radical Marxist organisation," Mr. O'Callaghan said.

Mr. O'Callaghan said he had been involved in a 1983 IRA plot to kill Prince Charles and Princess Diana at a London rock concert. The plot was foiled, he said, because of information he gave to British security forces.

Mr. O'Callaghan, who had been sentenced to multiple life

terms for two homicides and other acts of terrorism, was once a member of the executive council of the IRA-aligned Sinn Fein party. He has also said he was the commander of the IRA's Southern Command, responsible for arms smuggling.

After serving eight years, he was released from prison in 1996.

Israel, U.S. in joint missile project

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli state defence firm Rafael and Lockheed Martin of the United States signed an agreement Sunday to explore possible joint development of new generations of air-to-air missiles, the companies announced.

The memorandum of agreement, signed at Rafael's Tel Aviv headquarters, focuses initially on development of new weapons based on Rafael's Python 4 missiles, they said in a statement.

The two companies already jointly produce and market since 1996 the Popeye air-to-ground missile, which has generated sales of \$400 million.

"Rafael's expertise in the development of advanced weapons systems and the ability of Lockheed Martin to market them internationally will be mutually beneficial to both companies," said Rafael President Yitzhak Gat.

Joseph Antinucci, president of Lockheed Martin Electronics and Missiles, added that the new deal was "an important follow-up" to the Popeye agreement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis bar Arab boxing champ from tournament

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A national boxing champion was barred from a tournament in memory of slain Israeli soldiers because he is an Israeli Arab, a move denounced as shameful by the country's boxing chief, a newspaper reported Sunday. Organisers refused to allow Bilal Badrani, 18, Israel's junior lightweight boxing champion for the past three years, to take part in a tournament in Azaria, a village near Tel Aviv, to mark Israel's 50th anniversary. "There has been an implicit rule for 20 years that Arabs are not invited to tournaments organised in memory of soldiers who have fallen in combat," organiser Azik Drukman told the Maariv newspaper. "Imagine if this took place in 1946, that a competition was organised in memory of victims of Nazis, and Germans took part," he said.

Iranians demonstrate against setting up of AIDS hospital

TEHRAN (AP) — Thousands of protesters in the western province of Kermanshah clashed with police during a demonstration against the setting up of a hospital for AIDS patients in their province, the Iran Daily reported Sunday. Some protesters were injured during Friday's clashes and windows of nearby buildings were broken, the paper reported. It gave no specific number for casualties.

Local religious leader killed in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — The imam of an Istanbul mosque was shot dead by an unidentified gunman on Sunday while preaching, Turkey's Anatolia news agency said. Imam Ali Muratoglu, who was attacked in the Ismailiyya Mosque on Istanbul's European side, died as he was being taken into hospital.

Yemen calls for Palestinian unity in talks with Yassin

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a traditional ally of the PLO, has called in a meeting with Palestinian Islamist leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin for the Palestinians to close ranks. "We want the Palestinians close ranks to foil the plots of those who are trying to divide them," Mr. Saleh said in a meeting Saturday with Sheikh Yassin, spiritual guide of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Home

Queen inaugurates children's museum

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Sunday inaugurated a children's museum and library at the Al-Basra secondary school in Amman, according to a press release.

Queen Noor expressed her appreciation for the Sharm Foundation's generous donation of the museum, which has been operating since 1992. The museum, which has a collection of 100 books, is a modern facility with a large hall, a library, a play area, and a museum. The museum is a joint project of the Sharm Foundation and the Jordanian Ministry of Education. The museum is a modern facility with a large hall, a library, a play area, and a museum. The museum is a joint project of the Sharm Foundation and the Jordanian Ministry of Education.

Continued inter of bombing su

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Prosecutor's Office on Sunday continued its investigation into the bombing of a bus in Amman, which killed 10 people and injured 20 others. The investigation is ongoing, and the authorities are working to identify the perpetrators. The bombing took place on Sunday morning in a busy area of the city. The bus was carrying a group of people, and the explosion occurred just as it was about to depart. The authorities have cordoned off the area and are conducting a thorough investigation. The investigation is ongoing, and the authorities are working to identify the perpetrators. The bombing took place on Sunday morning in a busy area of the city. The bus was carrying a group of people, and the explosion occurred just as it was about to depart. The authorities have cordoned off the area and are conducting a thorough investigation.

Jordan, Syria co discussions on da

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria on Sunday signed a joint declaration on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. The declaration calls for peace and stability in the region. The declaration is a significant step towards resolving the long-standing conflict between the two countries. The declaration is a joint effort by the two governments to promote peace and stability in the region. The declaration is a significant step towards resolving the long-standing conflict between the two countries. The declaration is a joint effort by the two governments to promote peace and stability in the region.

what's going

May 19, 1998
* Concert by the Royal Jordanian Orchestra at the Amman Concert Hall.
* The Jordanian National Theatre will perform "The First of May" at the Amman Theatre.
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Queen inaugurates children's mobile museum and library

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Sunday inaugurated a children's mobile science museum and library at Al Bassa secondary girl's school, according to a press release.

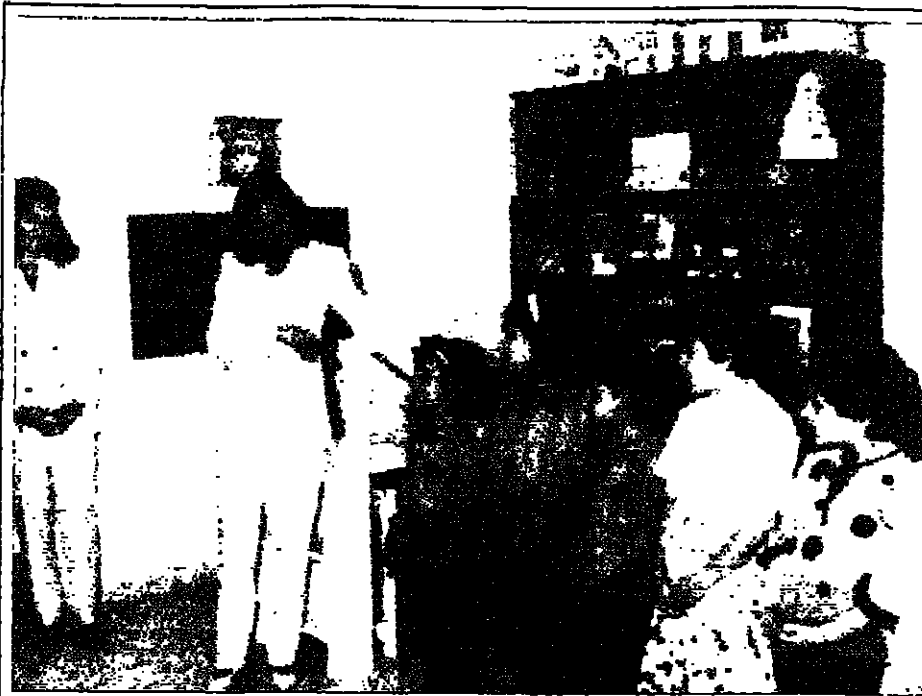
Queen Noor expressed her appreciation for the Shoman Foundation's generous donation of a 4,000 book library — a major new component of the mobile museum, which has toured the country since 1990.

Queen Noor established Jordan's first Children's Heritage and Science Museum in 1986 in cooperation with the Haya Arts Centre in Amman. The first of its kind in the Arab World, this hands-on recreational and educational museum for four- to twelve-year-olds teaches children about natural history, geography, the environment, outer space and the diverse cultures of the world, the statement said.

During Their Majesties' state visit to Germany in 1988, the Mercedes Company donated a 14-wheel truck to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which in cooperation with the Haya Cultural Centre, established a Mobile Life and Science Museum as an outreach programme designed especially for rural children.

The museum's exhibits focus on health and hygiene, the sciences, environmental protection and the history of Jordan. It also features a library, a travelling theatre, and video presentation facilities, the announcement added.

The opening of the mobile museum was in Muwaghaq village in 1990 and since then, the museum has annually visited around 50 villages and cities throughout the country benefiting 20,000 students.



PRINCESS ALIA VISITS CHARITABLE SOCIETY: HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal talks to several children during a visit to St. Vincent's Charitable Society. She was briefed by officials on the society's activities and the living conditions of its children. The society was established in 1958 with the purpose of helping the poor (Petra photo)

Consumers' rights group asks for law to organise merchant activity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Consumers Protection Society (JCPS) Sunday urged the government to enact an anti-trust law that would help organise relations among merchants and between business and the government.

JCPS President Mohammad Obeidat said this suggestion was based on several studies the society conducted in the first four months of this year covering prices of food commodities, services such as maintenance of electrical appliances, water, vegetables, fruit and red meat, among others.

He pointed out that many countries which have floated prices took the prior step of passing laws to prevent monopolies and encourage competition among merchants.

Dr. Obeidat called on the government to protect consumers by enacting a law that would give them the right to choose from among the various commodities, buy safe goods, enable consumers to have access to accurate product information and enable consumers to compensation.

The JCPS has finalised a draft consumers protection law and will submit it to the concerned authorities for approval, he said, noting that in drawing up the law the society studied similar laws in developed nations like Britain, the U.S., France and China.

He also called on the government to set up a higher committee of all concerned parties to address the question of rising prices.

Dr. Obeidat announced that the society will organise a conference on consumers' rights involving public and private sector organisations from the regional and international levels.

The conference will offer an opportunity to evaluate the JCPS' endeavours over the past eight years to defend consumers' rights, according to Dr. Obeidat.

It will also offer a chance for Arab states without consumer protection groups to benefit from Jordan's experience, he added.

Women's union launches campaign to raise legal marriage age

By Francesca Ciriadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Women's Union (JWU) has launched a campaign to raise the legal marriage age to 18 for both sexes, from the current 15 for women and 16 for men.

After all aspects of the issue have been taken into consideration through studies, seminars and public debates, the JWU will submit its recommendations to the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), which will formulate an official proposal to the government.

According to JNCW Secretary General Amal Sabbagh, the initiative is the first of its kind, though the pros and cons of raising the legal marriage age, set by a 1976 law, have already been discussed in the past.

Supporters of the proposal have pointed out that since 18 is considered the minimum age for the exercise of most political and civil rights, such as voting, the same criterion should be applied to marriage.

They have also said early marriages would considerably increase the rate of early pregnancies, one of the main causes of prenatal and maternal health complications.

Furthermore, Jordan ratified in 1991 the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets the limit of childhood at 18.

Early marriages, doctors and social workers warn, could also make birth-spacing, the first government-promoted method for containing Jordan's high growth population rate, less effective.

According to the latest official figures, Jordan's annual population growth rate stands at approximately 4.5 per cent. Statisticians, however, say that much of it can be attributed to forced migration as a result of the 1990-1991 Gulf war. Nonetheless, the Kingdom's 4.5 million population is expected to double by 2011, and supporters of a raised legal marriage age say that early marriages would be an obstacle to government population policies.

A report published last week in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i stated that early marriages are also among the first causes of divorce.

According to the report, 86 per cent of divorces occur among couples who tied the knot before the age of 21.

On the other hand, "the debate on whether raising the marriage age has also touched on economic aspects," Ms. Sabbagh said.

Those against a raise in the marriage age have pointed out that for many poor families, "marrying off" their young girls as soon as possible represents a relief from an economic burden which would seriously hinder the well-being of other family members.

However, advocates of an increase in marriage age argue that young men below 18 are in most cases unable to support a family, hence early marriages would not help alleviate poverty but simply transfer young girls from a condition of poverty in their home to one of poverty in their husband's home.

According to the Department of Statistics, however, the increase in age of first-time spouses is already an existing trend in Jordanian society.

Due to the economic development and higher education levels, the average age at first marriage increased in the period 1979-1994 from 26 to 27.9 for men, and from 21 to 24.7 for women.

Continued interrogations of bombing suspects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Prosecution is continuing its interrogation of a group of "fundamentalists" suspected allegedly involved in a series of recent bombings and arson attacks in Amman, judicial sources said Sunday.

The government last week said the State Security Court would charge the eight suspects, including one still at large, after the interrogations end.

Members of the foreign-funded group, which calls itself the "Challenge and Reform Group," have allegedly told interrogators they were bent on tarnishing Jordan's security and stability through attacks on state symbols and security officials as part of a "drive to reform" the country.

Local dailies said the suspects confessed to plotting three main "terrorist" attacks against security "symbols" in addition to arson attacks on a school and a hotel.

The March and April blasts caused no deaths or injuries.

Last week, five of the suspects who confessed to murdering the attacks re-enacted their crimes in front of state prosecutors Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat and Captain Mahmoud Hyassan.

On Thursday, they re-enacted the planting of a fire-bomb in the parking lot of a four-star hotel in Amman and another one under the car of former General Intelligence Department chief Mohammad Rasoul Kilani.

The suspects allegedly admitted that they planned locally-made bombs at the Modern American School, at the Highway Patrol headquarters, under the car of Mr. Kilani, in a garbage container near the house of former Minister of Interior Jawdat Stoul and in the Jerusalem International Hotel parking lot.

"Jordanian" police said last week they arrested Abdul Nasser Abu Shanab, an Egyptian suspected of heading the group.

A source, who requested anonymity, told AFP on Thursday that investigations had revealed that the group received funds from a Jordanian of Palestinian origin living in the United States.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince inspects army division

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan paid an inspection tour to several units of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division, where he was briefed by the division's officers on its duties and activities. Prince Hassan watched training drills and voiced his appreciation of the Armed Forces. He also called at Jabot town, in the Mafrqa governorate, where he met with local citizens.

Majali calls for providing better health services

SOUTHERN SHUNEH (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday visited South Shuneh Hospital, where he called for extending better health services to citizens. Dr. Majali said the government will exert every possible effort to develop hospitals and equip them with the latest technology and provide them with qualified personnel.

Agricultural credit group to hold meeting next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Near East and North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA) will hold a conference in Amman on small loans from June 1-4 in conjunction with the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

NENARACA Secretary General Mohammad Mustafa said the conference is of vital importance in light of economic developments in the region's countries.

The conference will focus attention on development efforts in general and improving the standard of living in rural regions in particular, Dr. Mustafa said.

The conference will discuss new trends in granting credit and loans, the use of small loans by farmers and the role of small loans in easing poverty, he added.

Dr. Mustafa stated that deliberations will also focus attention on enabling small farmers to finance and manage small investments as a means of combating poverty. Such projects, he said, will not only ease poverty but will also enable the farmers to become self-reliant.

Sixty delegations are expected to attend the meeting, representing banks and credit corporations in the countries of the region from Morocco in the west to Pakistan and Iran in the east. Representatives of international organisations such as the World Bank, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and others will also participate, Dr. Mustafa added.

The conference is expected to facilitate the participants' exchange of expertise and experience in providing credit and enable them to devise strategies to help improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of rural areas.

The NENARACA office is one of four worldwide regional offices established by the FAO in 1977. The offices interact with local communities to help them improve services in rural and agricultural regions in a manner that fits their needs.

First stage of project to increase Amman's water supply completed

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

ZAI — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday marked the completion of the first stage of a major project to improve the process of supplying water to Amman and the nearby Balqa governorate.

The project is based on rehabilitating the water network of both areas, home to over 1.5 million of Jordan's 4.5 million people, and improving the transfer of water from the King Abdullah Canal via the Balqa-based Zai water pumping station.

Japan funded the \$11.3 million first stage of the project, which helped replace water pumps in the four stations situated between Deir Allah in the Jordan Valley and the Zai water treatment plant.

At a ceremony held here, Dr. Majali turned the water tap on, signalling the beginning of the project.

The improvement will ensure 45 million cubic metres of water a year, much of which is normally wasted through leakage in water pipes.

Koichi Matsumoto, Japan's ambassador to Jordan, said the project aims at solving two main challenges hindering water pumping to Amman.

"One is the gap between available water resources and the demand for them. This problem is attributed to the arid climate and rising population. With the increase of the population, water demand for domestic use as well as agriculture accelerates... water scarcity," he said. "The other problem is the elevation of greater Amman, which makes it imperative to enhance the pumping facilities to ensure sufficient water supplies," he added.

He said the Deir Allah-Zai system was not able to fulfil its capacity because of the low quantities of available water resources and its superannuated system.

"Japan will continue to extend support to Jordan in the field of water and other basic humanitarian needs in order to improve the Kingdom's living standards and promote peace in the region," Mr. Matsumoto stated.

Munther Haddadin, minister of water and irrigation, said the launching of this phase will improve the water pumping capacity by 20 per cent.

The overall project will increase the amount of water pumped to Amman through the King Abdullah Canal to 90 million cubic metres by the year 2002.

"Despite some hardships encountered in the implementation, we are confident that we will find the optimum solution in consultation with our development partners," Dr. Haddadin said.

According to Munther Khleifat, secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan, the second stage of the project will include expanding the pumping capacity of the Zai station to 90 million cubic metres a year at a total cost of JD67.5 million. He said JD50 million will be provided by Japan's government, JD14 million by Germany and JD3.5 million from the Jordanian government.

In 1985, Jordan started the project of drawing water from the King Abdullah Canal to the Amman and Balqa areas, and in 1992 it provided 36 per cent of pumped water to Amman and 17 per cent to Balqa.

Jordan, Syria continue discussions on dam project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria on Sunday signed the minutes of discussions over the past two days on the construction of Al Wihdeh (unity) Dam on the Yarmouk River.

Dureid Mahasneh, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority and head of the Jordanian delegation to the joint committee talks, said the two sides agreed on sharing the Yarmouk River water and exploiting it for irrigation and for power generation.

Jordan's share of water from the projected dam will be used for irrigation and other purposes, while Syria will benefit from the water and the generated electric power, he said.

Dr. Mahasneh noted that the committee discussed the general environmental situation in the Yarmouk River Basin and ways to improve it.

The meeting was the third since a joint Syrian-Jordanian committee agreed in October 1997 to go ahead with plans to construct the estimated \$400 million dam.

Dr. Mahasneh said the two sides tackled questions related to the project's 1988 and 1998 feasibility studies, including differences in the two such as the dam's estimated cost.

He said the two sides hope that they can lower the project's "huge" cost and will seek Arab financing at an international fundraising conference to be held in Amman.

The dam, which will be built inside Syrian territory, is expected to be 100 metres high and to have a storage capacity of 225 million cubic metres, of which 150 million will be used for irrigation and drinking purposes in Jordan.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has estimated that the water deficit in Jordan will grow from 222 million cubic metres at present to 251 million by the year 2011.

Lawzi: Al Quds Al Arabi ban not final

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Acting Minister of Information Nasser Lawzi on Sunday said the government's recent decision to ban the London-based Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper from entering the Kingdom was not final.

He told the Jordan Times that the government and Bassam Badarine, Amman correspondent for Al Quds Al Arabi, are attempting to resolve the ban, which was prompted by the newspaper's coverage of Jordanian news.

"The government decision to ban Al Quds Al Arabi came in response to a number of articles in the newspaper that were clearly targeting Jordan and its policies," said Mr. Lawzi.

Al Quds Al Arabi was barred from entering the Kingdom last Tuesday on orders from the Press and Publications Department (PPD).

PPD Director Bilal Tal was quoted by the local dailies this week as saying that the ban was only enforced "after making every attempt to open dialogue with the paper's bureau in Amman to ensure commitment to principles of professionalism, objectivity and neutrality," and to stop the paper's repetitive violations of the law.

"Our demand is that Al Quds Al Arabi's Amman bureau deal with Jordan's issues on neutral and objective grounds," he was quoted as saying by Al Ra'i.

Mr. Badarine denied that his coverage of Jordanian affairs was biased since, he said, only four editions of the newspaper were confiscated for stories originating from Amman while the other 54 confiscated editions carried stories and articles from other sources.

"I challenge anyone to come up with any story that has false information about Jordan," Mr. Badarine said.

The PPD filed a case against Mr. Badarine on March 16 for allegedly "distorting the image of Jordan abroad and harming ties between Jordan and friendly countries, and insulting the country's dignity."

The charges, according to Mr. Badarine, were based on a series of 12 articles that were published several months ago and dealt with the relationship between the government and the Islamist-led opposition during and after the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali expressing "grave concern" over the ban on Al Quds Al Arabi.

The letter said "Al Quds Al Arabi has been the target of repeated government harassment over the past year, and that dozens of issues were confiscated due to what authorities deemed as unfavourable coverage of political affairs in the Kingdom."

"The CPJ views the government-imposed ban on Al Quds Al Arabi as a flagrant violation of the right to seek, receive, impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Canadian doctors hoping to use seminar to promote peace

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of Canadian doctors trying to promote peace through science hope a two-day controversial audiology seminar which opened in Amman on Sunday will help promote their goals.

"There are two major objectives for this seminar: first, to bring benefit to people and second, to build relationships that will in turn grow to bring benefits to people in Jordan and the region," said Professor Arnold M. Noyek from the Canadian International Scientific Exchange Programme (CISEPO), the group organising the international meeting in conjunction with the Royal Medical Services (RMS).

But the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), combating any form of normalisation with the Jewish state, has asked its members to boycott the seminar because doctors from Israel are attending.

Dr. Noyek reacted to the JMA's call to boycott the seminar by saying that "professional societies serve their profession by obtaining an 'openness of mind' attitude, dialogue and communica-

tions rather than taking an opinion and walking away with it."

The Third International Audiology and Otology Symposium opened under the patronage of Major General Youssef Goussous, head of the RMS.

The conference is focusing on prevention, detection, assessment and management of hearing loss as well as dizziness and imbalance related to hearing problems.

It is being attended by 25 doctors from Israel, Egypt, the RMS, Jordanian non-governmental organisations and the four Canadian members of CISEPO.

Jordan is the first leg of a regional tour that will take the CISEPO doctors to Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas, where they will give lectures on audiology.

"Jordan will attend these conferences represented by the army as well as the private sector," Prof. Noyek said. "Disease does not have boundaries."

Other participants in the meeting held similar views. "I, as a Jordanian, would participate with dignity and quality," said Manal Hamza, director of the Specialised Audiology Centre.

The JMA has threatened to take "punitive measures" against any member who does not comply with the association rules banning any form of contact with Israelis or visits to Israel as part of efforts by the 12-member professional associations to halt normalisation with Israel under the 1994 peace treaty.

His Majesty King Hussein has constantly called for the professional associations to stay away from politics and concentrate on upgrading professional standards.

CISEPO's major objectives include contributing to enhancing peace and security as well as to enriching academic medicine and health care, particularly in the region.

In 1996, a professional meeting took place between Canadian, Jordanian and Israeli ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists. In 1997 a trilateral, collaborative relationship among the medical communities of Canada, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority was established.

In 1997, CISEPO organised a workshop in Gaza and Nablus to facilitate screening, diagnosis and treatment of deaf children.

what's going on

FILMS

* Two films entitled "Dr. Zhivago" and children's film "The Little Prince" at the British Council, Jabel Amman on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday May 20 respectively.

* "La Lien du Crime" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

THE FIRST UNIVERSITIES THEATRE FESTIVAL

* University of Jordan play "The Chair" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

* Philadelphia University play "Slow Death" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Concert by Rula Talhouani at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (daily until May 21).

LECTURE

* "The Challenges of Arab National Security" (in Arabic) by Dr. Haytham Al Kilani at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

ARTS EXHIBITION

* Private showing of works of art and jewellery (hosted by the American Women of Amman) at the Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, May 19 (6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.).

Pakistan P.M. says not worried by Indian N-test

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Sunday his country would need no more than 26 hours notice to conduct a nuclear test but vowed he would not be rushed into any decision.

The official AFP news agency quoted Mr. Sharif as saying he was not worried by India's nuclear capability "because Pakistan has the same potential to conduct a nuclear test."

He told party workers of his ruling Muslim league: "We can prove our nuclear worth within 12 to 26 hours," APP reported.

His comment was the first time Mr. Sharif had given any time frame for the preparations required to carry out Pakistan's first nuclear test, and followed U.S. intelligence reports that one would be staged as early as Sunday to retaliate for the five by India.

Saturday Foreign Minister Ayub Khan told the BBC that a Pakistani test, which would unleash harsh economic sanctions, was "very close to certain", adding: "It is only a matter of time."

His remarks appeared more hardline than his prime minister, who Saturday kept worried western governments guessing about Pakistan's nuclear intentions, and wrote to the Group of Eight (G8) industrial states urging harsh action against India.

Sunday Mr. Sharif said the government was continuing to study whether the Hindu nationalist government in New Delhi would be punished to Islamabad's satisfaction.

"All options are open and we have not given up on this regard to anyone in this regard," he said.

"We have not taken any decision in haste in this regard and we are monitoring the sharp reaction of the world towards India's nuclear explosion," APP quoted him as saying.

"We are studying the international scenario carefully and taking into account the situation judiciously arising as a result of (the) Indian nuclear test," Mr. Sharif denied reports in the Western media that Islamabad was trying to trade a commitment not to

test against debt relief or other financial support for its faltering economy.

"We are not looking for monetary gains," he said in remarks published in the Sunday Press. "There is no package which is being offered to Pakistan, nor have we offered any package to anybody."

Mr. Sharif appeared to be alluding to reports from the G8 summit in Birmingham which suggested that U.S. President Bill Clinton was linking a stalled jet fighter deal to Pakistani restraint.

U.S. officials told reporters that a decision against testing could resolve a dispute over 28 F-16 fighters for which Pakistan paid \$658 million in 1990, but which were not delivered as punishment for Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Western diplomats said they doubted whether such a trade-off would find favour in Islamabad, which is looking to a Mr. Clinton visit in November to unlock the deal.

The Pakistani government is waiting to see how hard the G8 summit comes down

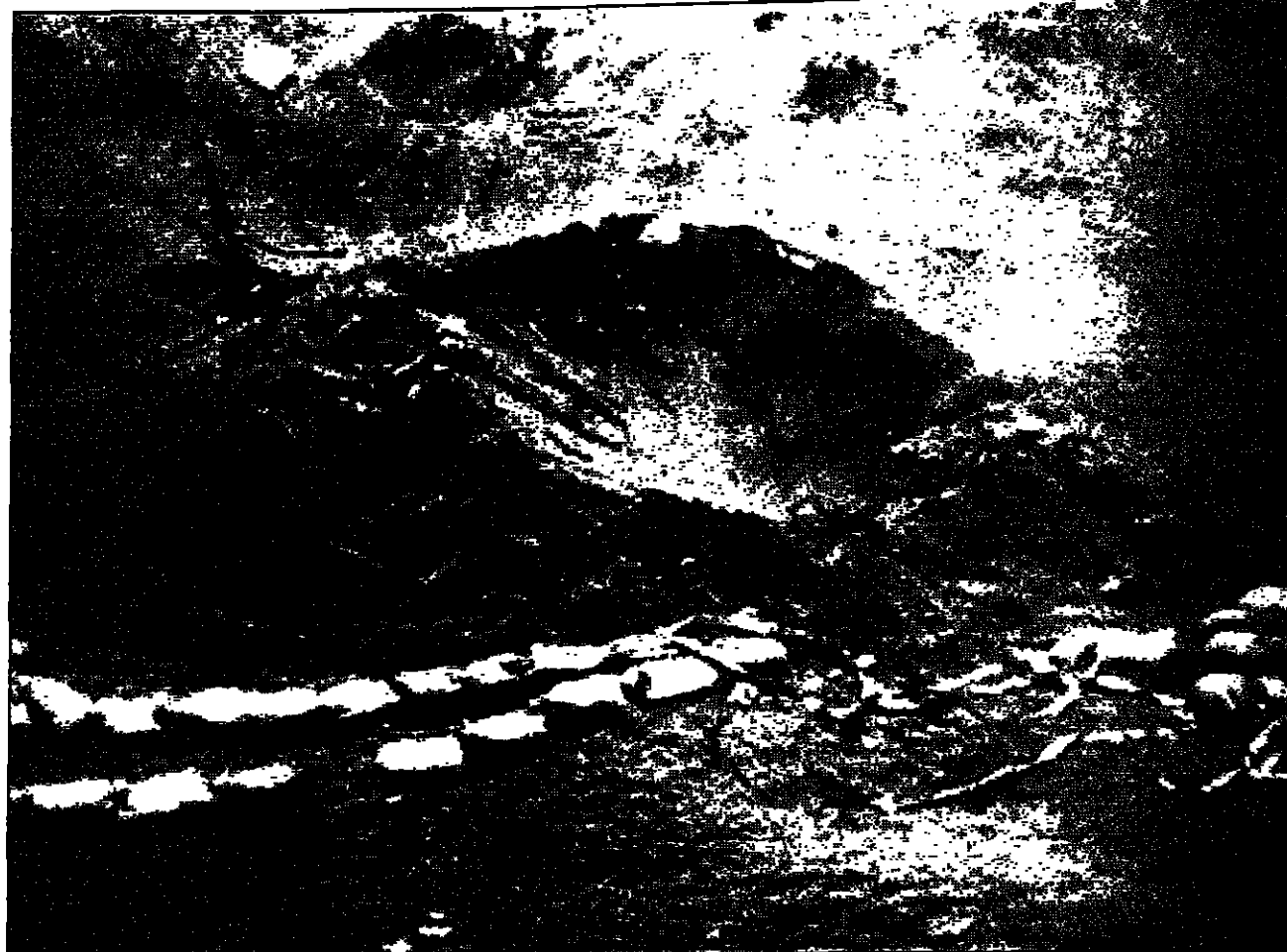
on India, after expressing disappointment at a mere condemnation of the nuclear tests in a Saturday communiqué.

Pakistani officials said they wanted reassurance that U.S. sanctions, which have not been matched by key EU states Britain, France or Germany, would bite deep and long to hamstring the Indian economy.

Government officials have brushed off warnings of tough sanctions against any Pakistani test by saying that national security interests must come first.

Mr. Clinton said in a British television interview: "The firmer we are, the more likely we are to be able to persuade Pakistan and perhaps other countries lining up behind Pakistan that they should not test, that they should not try to become public members of the nuclear club."

Asked about reports that Islamabad might explode its own device as early as the coming week, Mr. Clinton said that under U.S. law, he would have no choice but to impose sanctions.



This photograph released by the Indian government May 17 shows a crater and debris at the Shakti-4KS nuclear site after a nuclear device was detonated underground (AFP photo)

Sanctions will not hit India's nuclear weapons programme

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's top nuclear and military scientists Sunday said any trade sanctions would not affect India's nuclear weapons programme.

"Sanctions will not affect us in this field," said A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the architect of India's guided missile programme at a press conference addressed by India's top nuclear scientists.

The United States and Japan imposed substantial trade sanctions after India carried out a series of five nuclear tests last week, one

involving a thermo-nuclear device.

"Our nuclear programme is 100 per cent self-reliant. Nobody can throttle us technologically anymore," said Mr. Kalam.

"We were refused a super computer sometime back. Today we have it. We were also refused cryogenic technology. That will be ready in a few years."

"Once a challenge is given we have to do the job," the scientist told the news conference packed with Western and Indian journalists.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said

last week India was ready to face up to sanctions for its five nuclear tests, which he said were conducted after much deliberation.

"If such steps are taken then we Indians will face it. We are ready for any difficulty," Mr. Vajpayee told reporters.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last week ordered tough sanctions on India. Japan, India's largest donor, joined in by suspending its 3.5 billion yen (\$26 million) annual grant aid and

development aid estimated at \$1 billion.

Sweden cancelled a three-year aid agreement with India worth \$119 million soon after Wednesday's tests and the Norwegian government said it was considering cuts in foreign aid.

But the Group of Eight (G8) industrial nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States — declined to impose joint sanctions at their summit in Britain Sunday.

Lebed confident as voting begins in key Siberia election

KRASNOYARSK, Russia (AFP) — Maverick Russian nationalist Alexander Lebed was in confident mood Sunday as voting began in his run-off poll with incumbent Valery Zubov for the post of governor of the sprawling Siberian Krasnoyarsk region.

Opinion polls favoured Mr. Lebed, 48, the gravel-voiced retired general who took 45.1 per cent of the vote in the first round on April 26, against Mr. Zubov's 35.4 per cent.

"My abilities are far superior to theirs, which is why they won't steal my victory," said Mr. Lebed, who hopes the governor's post will relaunch his political career, and provide a powerbase from which to challenge the Moscow political establishment and his bid for the presidency.

Voting in Krasnoyarsk, which is four times the size of France, opened at 7:00 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday), and polling stations were set to close at 11:00 p.m. (1500 GMT). Initial results were expected early Monday.

Electoral officials said turnout among the region's more than two million registered voters had reached 35 per cent half way through the voting day.

To encourage voters, local authorities laid out free public transport so that those spending the weekend away from home would come back to cast their ballots.

One crucial element in the run-off vote will be the choice of Communist supporters, who gave their candidate Piotr Romanov 13 per cent of the ballot in the first round.

The leadership of the Communist Party in Moscow has called on the electorate to vote for Mr. Zubov, 45, despite him being an economist firmly in President Boris Yeltsin's camp of market reformers.

"Zubov is weak, Lebed has a stronger character. I am voting for him because I no longer want to see people rummaging through dustbins and children playing in the gutters," said Anna Kazlova, a 60-year-old pensioner.

Mr. Lebed told foreign journalists he was confident that many voters would balk at supporting Mr. Zubov, whose governorship is seen as being disastrous.

"Seventy per cent of the Communists in the region will vote for me," he said.

He also played down speculation that he would run for president in 2000, insisting that his first priority was to sort out the economic crisis facing Krasnoyarsk.

"The precondition for running in the presidential election is the rebirth of the region. I'm going to concentrate on that and, when it's done, I'll think about the presidency."

Speaking on local television Friday, Mr. Lebed said it would take more than two years to turn Krasnoyarsk's fortunes around.

He also dismissed concerns that his rivals in the Kremlin might seek to undermine his governorship should he win Sunday's ballot.

"They would lose more than they would gain," he said.

Mr. Lebed, a strong critic of corruption in the Moscow establishment, came third in the first round of the 1996 presidential elections with a surprise 15 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Yeltsin promptly co-opted him in a thinly veiled attempt to ensure victory in the run-off vote, appointing him national security chief.

But despite negotiating an end to the bloodbath in Chechnya, Mr. Lebed fell out with Mr. Yeltsin's aides, notably the then Kremlin Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais, and was sacked for oversteering ambition and poor teamwork.

Sunday he denied charges that he was in the pocket of financial interests interested in controlling mineral-rich Krasnoyarsk, and defended the support his campaign had received from influential businessman Boris Berezovsky.

"I am independent. Boris Abramovich said he would support me, and that's as far as it goes," he said.

Bemoaning the complete absence of reforms in Krasnoyarsk over the last five years, Mr. Lebed pledged an audit of all the region's factories and greater public accountability.

Relaxed and confident, Mr. Lebed said he would spend the evening at the theatre and then stay up all night at his staff headquarters.



Former Rwandan Interior minister Seth Sendashonga talks to the press in a Nairobi hospital Feb. 27 where he was admitted after an assassination attempt. Sendashonga and his driver who have been working for the United Nations where shot dead Saturday (Reuters photo)

Kenyan police hunt killers of Rwandan exile leader

NAIROBI (R) — An intensive operation has been mounted to track down gangsters who shot dead former Rwandan Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga and his Kenyan driver in a Nairobi suburb Saturday, police said Sunday.

Nairobi Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Swaleh Slim told reporters: "They did not rob the victims of anything. Their mission was to kill."

The car used by the two gunmen was under guard Sunday at a police station near the scene of the attack. It had been abandoned only 200 metres from the busy road junction where the attackers struck, and little more than that distance from the modern Aga Khan hospital.

Mr. Swaleh said police had not yet identified the attackers, who were armed with an AK47 assault rifle. They made their escape on foot in a heavy rainstorm, as a massive traffic jam built up round the victims' car.

Other police officials said the attack was a "political assassination". Sendashonga, a Hutu, was interior minister in the government of the

mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) before he went into exile in Kenya three years ago. The RPF took power in Rwanda in 1994, after a wave of genocide in which at least 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and allied Hutus died.

Sendashonga survived a previous assassination attempt on the outskirts of Nairobi in June 1996 in which his nephew was critically wounded.

Sendashonga joined the RPF before it took power and became interior minister in July 1994. He was respected as a moderate Hutu opposed to the 1994 genocide.

He was sacked from his post in 1995 and went into exile in Kenya, from where he headed the leading moderate Rwandan opposition party in exile, the resistance forces for democracy.

From exile he pressed for international investigations into the many attacks that have taken place against Hutus in Rwanda in recent years.

Sendashonga's widow worked in Nairobi for the United Nations. Sendashonga was travelling in her car, bearing U.N. number plates, when he was killed.

Indian villagers claim N-test side-effects

NEW DELHI (R) — Several residents of a village near India's nuclear-testing site have complained of nose-bleeds, skin and eye irritation, vomiting and loose bowels since last week's underground blasts, a report said Sunday.

The government has said that no radioactivity was released into the atmosphere over the Thar desert, in the western state of Rajasthan, as a result of its five tests.

But the Sunday statesman said that more than a dozen people from the village of Khetolai experience symptoms of contamination by radiation immediately after

the last two of the five devices were exploded Wednesday.

"The residents approached us, gave a list of affected persons," the paper quoted a district official as saying. "Most of them have complained of nose-bleeding, loss of appetite, irritation in skin and eyes."

"We will soon send a team of doctors to examine the affected villagers. Only then can we come to a conclusion. It could be due to the rise in temperature," he said.

The paper said the people of Khetolai were convinced that the complaints were due to radiation exposure

and quoted one man as saying he was suffering nose-bleeds for the first time in his life.

Another man was worried about his 12-year-old daughter.

"She has been vomiting, bleeding through the nose and feeling restless for two days after the second explosion," the paper quoted the girl's father as saying.

"First we ignored it but when the number of victims rose we brought it to the notice of police and army officers."

Khetolai is one of seven villages dotted around the alpha firing range of the area called Pokhran.

Cambodian police seize three tonnes of artefacts from smugglers

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian authorities seized three tonnes of ancient artefacts from antiquities smugglers, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Military police seized 3.2 tonnes of artefacts from a vehicle Saturday in the northwest province of Siem Reap, home to the famed 12th century Angkor Wat temples, according to the Khmer-language Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) newspaper.

The antiquities, including 14 Buddha heads, sculptures of traditional Apsara dancers and lion's heads, were buried beneath bricks in the back of a truck with military licence plates, the paper quoted.

Prak Chanthoum, the deputy military police chief of Siem Reap, was saying.

Prak Chanthoum said the authorities had been aware of the operation for some time, but waited to move until they were certain the antiquities could be seized.

At least one arrest — that of the truck owner — was made, according to the

paper which said the antiquities were believed to have been looted from ancient temples in Preah Vihear province.

The smugglers were believed to be taking the antiquities west to Banteay Meanchey province for export abroad, possibly to Thailand, the paper said.

Antiquities theft has become a major problem for Cambodia and experts have appealed not for more vigorous enforcement of smuggling laws but also for collectors to report suspect items on the market.

India accuses neighbour Pakistan of fomenting the armed militant campaign in Kashmir, which holds part of the divided Himalayan province, denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it terms a legitimate expression for self-rule.

Rebel attacks in Kashmir have intensified since a jolt late last year.

Three killed in Kashmir in suspected rebel attack

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Suspected separatist rebels gunned down three Muslims, including a two-year-old boy, in a late night attack near troubled Kashmir's summer capital, police said Sunday.

Police said masked gunmen stormed into a home in the Srinagar suburb of Ganderbal around midnight Saturday and opened fire indiscriminately, killing the three and injuring two other people.

They said the attackers were probably Muslim guerrillas. More than 20,000 people have died in Indian Kashmir since 1989 when a Muslim secessionist drive intensified.

India accuses neighbour Pakistan of fomenting the armed militant campaign in Kashmir, which holds part of the divided Himalayan province, denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it terms a legitimate expression for self-rule.

Rebel attacks in Kashmir have intensified since a jolt late last year.

Cargo tug docks with Mir space station

MOSCOW (R) — A progress cargo spacecraft carrying fresh supplies for the ageing Mir orbiting station and equipment for new medical experiments successfully docked with Mir early Sunday, mission control said.

"The Progress M-39 docked with Mir fine. It brought fuel, Oxygen and clothes for the cosmonauts," a mission control duty officer told Reuters by telephone from the town of Korolyov just outside Moscow.

It also brought 15 Chinese salamanders and 60 snails. The cosmonauts will start medical experiments on them as soon as possible in order not to allow any of the creatures to die before then," he added.

The cargo also includes equipment for experiments with proteins as part of research to find a cure for cancer and ailments in the Human Immune System. Snails and salamanders are used for medical experiments on weightlessness.

The three-man crew in orbit were resting Sunday after the docking, which was carried out in automatic mode at 3:51 a.m.

(2351 GMT Saturday). Friday the crew cast off progress's redundant predecessor, packed with waste and unwanted equipment, and set it on a four-hour journey to burn up in the atmosphere. The fragments that survive reentry to the atmosphere fell into the ocean.

The Russian space agency has said Progress M-39's engines will be used to lower the Mir's orbit, a first step towards winding down its 12-year mission in space.

The duty officer could not confirm that.

The 124-tonne station consists of five modules where cosmonauts live, work and carry out experiments. More than 100 cosmonauts and astronauts have visited Mir during its mission.

Two Russian cosmonauts, Talgat Musabayev and Nikolai Budarin, and NASA astronaut Andrew Thomas are on Mir now.

In August, cosmonauts Gennady Padalko, Sergei Avdeev and a former senior aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Yuri Baturin, will be sent to Mir.

N. Korea urges Department to remain return

WASHINGTON (AFP) — North Korea this weekend urged the U.S. Department of Defense to remain open to the possibility of American soldiers returning to their families during the Korean war.

In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), North Korea said it was ready to discuss an agreement on the return of American soldiers who were captured in the Korean war.

The statement was the first official explanation of an incident last week in which the North broke with past practice and turned up a large number of American soldiers who were captured in the Korean war.

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Talks between Mi

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Talks between soft-

ware giant Microsoft and U.S. federal anti-trust lawyers ended Saturday.

The talks were for a court case over a suit filed by 20 states that allege the company is an illegal monopoly that uses its power to crush all competition.

The talks Saturday had a final effort to end a court battle over whether Microsoft was a monopoly.

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N. Korea urges Defence Department to take over remains return

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea this weekend urged the U.S. Department of Defence to replace United Nations soldiers with U.S. troops when repatriating the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean war.

In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) late Saturday, Pyongyang also accused Washington of breaching an agreement on joint operations to discover the remains of U.S. servicemen killed in the 1950-53 war.

The statement was the first official explanation of an incident last week in which the North broke with past practice, and failed to show up at a ceremony at the truce village of Panmunjom to hand over the remains of two U.S. soldiers.

The remains had been recovered in North Pyongan province between April 21 and May 14.

The North's failure to appear at the ceremony prompted a call for an explanation from the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC), which along with North Korea, jointly guards Panmunjom under an armistice accord signed in 1953.

Previous transfers of the remains of U.S. soldiers have been made without problems through Panmunjom, despite Pyongyang's refusal to recognise the supervisory function of the UNC.

North Korea wants a

bilateral peace accord between Washington and Pyongyang to replace the 1953 armistice, bypassing Seoul.

KCNA Saturday quoted the spokesman for the North Korean military mission in Panmunjom as saying that last week's handover was thwarted by Washington's "unreasonable behaviour."

"The United States is investigating the 'U.N. forces' in the repatriation of remains, a humanitarian issue which should be solved between (North Korea) and the United States, apparently for an ulterior political purpose."

"We are willing to render a sincere cooperation for the discovery operations, taking into account their humanitarian nature. But we will never accept the unreasonable demand prompted by a political purpose," the spokesman said.

He also demanded that the U.S. Defence Department stick to the letter of an agreement struck in New York in December last year and send a delegate to receive the remains at Panmunjom.

"From the technical point of view, the signatories to the agreement are (North Korea) and the United States and it is the Korean People's Army (KPA) and the U.S. Department of Defence that are implementing the agreement."

"So, the 'U.N. forces' have no reason to interfere in the transfer of the remains," he argued.

Talks between Microsoft, U.S. regulators collapse

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Talks between software behemoth Microsoft and U.S. federal anti-trust lawyers collapsed Saturday, paving the way for a lawsuit along with 20 states that will allege the company is an illegal monopoly that uses its weight to crush all competition.

The talks Saturday had been a final effort to avert a court battle over whether Microsoft was using its Windows operating system — used in an estimated 80 per cent of all personal computers around the world — to force computer makers to install other Microsoft software.

The talks "ended (Saturday) with no resolution," said Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona. "At this point they are not expected to resume."

Microsoft corporate spokeswoman Erin Brewer said the company "cannot agree to (the government's) core demands."

At the centre of the controversy is Windows 98, a new computer software operating system that is ready to go to the market.

Operating system software basically runs the computer, and provides the framework for other software to be used.

In the latest version Microsoft has merged the operating system with Explorer, its Internet browser.

The government however wants Microsoft to present alternate browsers, as well as stop displaying the Windows user interface when consumers turn on a new personal computer for the first time, the software giant said in a statement.

The Justice Department, 20 states and the District of Columbia had planned to go to court Thursday to charge Microsoft with breaking anti-monopoly

laws, but declined when the company reportedly came forward with concessions.

In the past, talks have been conducted personally by Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and the Justice Department's anti-trust chief Joel Klein.

The Redmond, a Washington-based company, said it would ship Windows 98 to computer makers Monday, and the operating system will be in the stores as scheduled on June 25.

The Justice Department could still seek an injunction against those shipments.

Microsoft competitor Netscape alleges that Microsoft uses its clout to force computer makers to install its Internet browser into Windows 95, the predecessor to Windows 98.

The Justice Department agrees, stating that such a move violates a consent decree reached with the government in 1995.

But Microsoft's Mr. Gates argues that any government interference would stifle innovation in the computer industry.

Microsoft's critics want the software giant restrained.

A failure to enforce anti-trust laws in the Microsoft case "would be a defeat for the competition in the computer industry," said Walter Adams, an economic professor at Michigan State University.

The outcome of the confrontation "will have a profound effect on the shape, the structure and the opportunities of the high-tech industry," said Mr. Adams, an anti-trust specialist.

Authorities investigate hospital fire as death toll rises to 21

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine authorities Sunday launched an arson investigation into a Manila hospital fire that killed at least 21 people, most of them intensive care patients trapped in their beds.

Interior Secretary Epimaco Velasco said he had ordered fire marshal Carlito Romero to report on the pre-dawn fire Saturday that razed most of the Philippine Lung Centre building.

Mr. Velasco announced the inquiry as he visited the scene of the disaster in the Quezon City suburb.

A doctors' group, the Alliance of Health Workers, said the fire was linked to a government plan to sell the hospital, built by former first lady Imelda Marcos in 1982, to the private sector.

The death toll rose to 21 with the discovery of two charred bodies early Sunday. Fourteen people were trapped in the hospital's intensive care unit and not all of their bodies have been found, officials said.

Firefighters combed the smouldering ruins Sunday, but rescue workers said their job was hampered by the danger of a collapse.

A witness who entered the intensive care unit said he saw the charred remains of patients still on their beds.

"Their mouths were gaping and you could immediately see the agony they had to go through before they died," he said. "I saw twisted metal beds. The ceiling collapsed on the patients."

Some of the patients, who were on respirators, died when power failed during the fire, officials said.

Remains were taken to a morgue, where forensic experts would attempt to identify them.

To make identification easier, firefighters placed tags on the beds and the cadaver based on their designated places before the fire broke out before dawn.

Disaster officials said they would verify if more people were trapped, citing a report by one rescuer that a dead body was seen near the hallway and another was inside a lift.

It was the worst fire in the capital since 1996 when 160 people were killed during a disco blaze.

Health Secretary Carmencita Reodica confirmed the planned privatisation, saying it was opposed by some groups

she did not identify.

The interior secretary said the fire marshal had a "theory" on the cause of the disaster but declined to give details. He described news reports of a deliberate fire as "premature."

Congressman Mario Ty, head of the House Committee on Health, called for an "intense" investigation.

"It is my opinion that probably there must be some sabotage here because of the fact that there is discontent among the workers knowing that the administration has plans to privatise this hospital," he told the DZBB radio station.

"I don't believe that it (the cause) is faulty wiring knowing that the building is constructed out of mostly concrete," he said.

Cambodian opposition staying in election

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's opposition was expected to stay in the running for the July election for now, even though conditions for a free and fair vote are still not in place, party officials said Sunday.

Deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and other Cambodian opposition leaders said in late April they were setting a May 18 deadline for what they said were minimum requirements necessary for a free and fair poll.

Party officials said Sunday no official decision on the matter had been reached but one said he did not expect a pull-out.

"I don't think there's going to be any boycott," said the senior opposition party official.

"We'll just proceed and see what happens. If it's not fair we can withdraw later," said the politician who declined to be identified.

The registration of voters for the crucial July 26 election is due to begin Monday and will run until June 15.

Another opposition party official said the National United Front (NUF) alliance, which groups Prince Ranariddh, prominent politician Sam Rainsy and two smaller parties, was expected to issue a statement on its participation in the election Monday.

"We're assessing the situation, none of our conditions have been met," the second party official said. "But we're very eager to take part. Only through elections can we have

change."

Prince Ranariddh won Cambodia's last election in 1993 but was toppled by his coalition government partner and co-premier, second Prime Minister Hun Sen, in July last year.

Hun Sen and his powerful Cambodian People's Party (CPP) control the security forces, local-level government and much of the media.

The NUF have alleged that the CPP was pressuring voters to register as members and to swear to vote for the party. It also alleged that the body organising the vote, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), were biased in favour of the CPP.

The opposition have also complained that the key body for judging con-

stitutional disagreements and resolving electoral disputes, the constitutional council, had not yet been formed and the opposition was being denied access to the media.

The alliance also wanted votes in the election to be counted at the district or provincial level not in the villages where they will be cast.

Earlier this month Prince Ranariddh, to the anger of some of his opposition colleagues, agreed to a compromise proposal from Hun Sen to count votes at the commune level, one step up from the villages.

Hun Sen has denied the CPP was pressuring people to back it and he has issued numerous calls for a free and fair vote.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



The Arab Potash Company Limited Invitation To Tender Contract No. APC/SP1/46/98 Salt Mushroom Dredging - SP1 2nd Stage

The Arab Potash Company Limited (APC) invites tenderers to tender for Dredging Works in Pan SP1 which forms part of the Solar System located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, Safi, Jordan. The scope of work to be carried out consists of dredging of Salt Mushroom, reefs and salt formations to a depth of 2.0m from the operation brine level of Pan SP1 with an approximate area of (30 km²). The dredged materials shall be used to construct salt dikes within the Pan SP1 by the contractor. It is expected that the contract period will be five years.

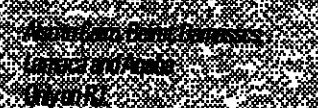
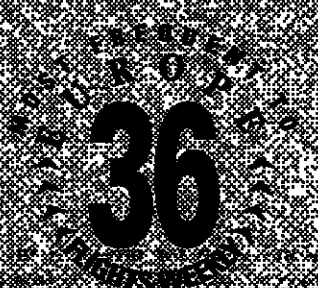
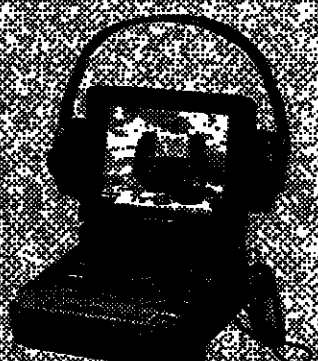
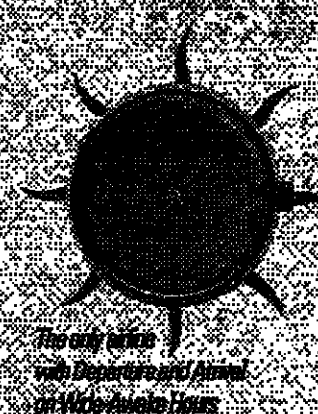
Interested Marine Dredging contractors having experience in similar works or hard materials dredging can tender to this contract, taking into consideration the following:

1. The Tender Documents can be purchased from the Procurement Department at APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman, at a non-refundable fee of JD1,000 (One Thousand Jordanian Dinars) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set.
2. Tenderers must be accompanied by a Tender Bond from a bank licensed in Jordan in the form of a Bank Guarantee in the value of JD300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Jordanian Dinars), in accordance with the specimen contained in the Tender Documents. The Tender Bond shall be valid for 165 (One Hundred and Sixty Five) days from the closing date of the Tender submission.
3. A site visit will take place on Monday, June 08, 1998, tenderers' representatives shall gather at 0800 hours Jordan local time at APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman.
4. The closing date for submission of Tender shall be 12:00 noon Jordan local time, Tuesday, June 30, 1998. The validity of Tender shall be 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) days from the closing date of the Tender submission. Tenders to be submitted to APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman.

For any clarification you may contact APC's Projects Manager on the following Plant Site address:

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General Manager



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One way out

THE DEMONSTRATIONS in Indonesia have gained momentum after surging out of the university campuses to which they had been confined for months and taking to the streets of that nation's cities. No longer are students the sole voice demanding change: religious groups, former members of the government, members of the ruling party, and even high-ranking military officials have taken up the call ringing throughout Indonesia: President Suharto must go.

Unfortunately, the demonstrations have also turned violent. The killing of six students by the army in a peaceful demonstration last week sparked three days of riots that left over 400 people dead in the capital, Jakarta. Suharto was forced to cut short a visit to Egypt and return to preside over the scenes of deadly unrest. More widespread violence is expected to hit the country on Wednesday, the day Indonesia observes the beginning of its national liberation movement. Foreign governments have advised nationals living there to leave as soon as possible.

Suharto reacted to these events and the calls to resign by announcing that he may form a new cabinet, a move that seems to be, as one opposition figure put it, too little too late. His offer to step down if the Indonesian people demand his resignation in a constitutional manner is also suspect, considering that he was elected to his seventh five-year term without the people's say. In his 35 years at the helm, Suharto led his country to a so-called economic miracle, but at a heavy price. Opposition movements were crushed, freedoms were stifled and human rights violated. Corruption and nepotism are rife at all levels, political, economic and social. The once-hailed economy continues its nosedive and there is no sign of any recovery soon.

Suharto now presides over a government that can no longer protect minorities — ethnic Chinese have been the main targets in the violence, or offer its citizens (except Suharto's men) a decent standard of living — the rupiah has become almost worthless and the International Monetary Fund estimates that \$47 billion will be needed to rescue it. Most importantly, the government can no longer command the respect of the people.

The time for superficial treatment has long passed. A scratch requires a bandage; a major wound requires surgery. Indonesia needs a major operation, starting from the top down.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Samir Hiyari Sunday called for granting women their full rights on equal terms with men and in conformity with the Jordanian Constitution. The writer referred to a memorandum sent to the prime minister by Awni Yirvas, director general of the Passports and Civil Status Department, urging the government to introduce amendments to the present laws that would permit Jordanian mothers to register the names of their children in their passports without the approval of the father, the uncle or the grandfather because this is their constitutional right. Many seminars and conferences were held in Jordan resulting in calls on the concerned authorities to respect the rights of women as provided for in the Constitution but to no avail, Hiyari said. The cruel and unfair treatment of women with regard to their civil rights constitutes a major hindrance to the country's democratic process and reflects backwardness. Hiyari stressed. He said he hoped the concerned authorities will respond to the requirements of democracy and respect of human rights and end the injustices to women.

Al Dustour's Mohammad Daoud called on the government to reconsider the prevailing prices of bread, saying since it is purchasing wheat on world markets at lower prices the price of bread should be lowered. The government should take advantage of the present low price of wheat and not only reduce the price of bread but also stop subsidising the bread prices. By doing so the government as well as the consumers stand to gain as the government would not be forced to allocate funds for the subsidy, according to the writer. Daoud also urged the government to step in and prevent merchants from monopolising coffee, saying the world market prices of this popular commodity have declined but the local merchant's greed has not, and they continue to sell coffee at very high prices. The writer said governments' passive stance towards the pricing of the two commodities is costing the consumers and the treasury extra and unnecessary expenses.

Economic Review

Reliving the globalisation debate

FREEING TRADE is often a controversial issue plagued, more often than not, with expressions of nationalistic fervour that laud protectionism of one product or another, or at some stage of the development of the industry. Notwithstanding present debates, the arguments presented at all levels are neither new nor unique. In fact, the masters have already presented all the available arguments many years (in some cases centuries) ago.

But before delving into the thoughts of the old masters of economic science, a brief statement of the present payments and trade situation is in order. The current account deficit, in Jordan, decreased from a high of 14.9 per cent in 1992 to 1.8 per cent in 1996, which is a remarkable achievement. Between 1992 and 1996 exports grew by 57 per cent (11.4 per cent annually) from \$932 million in 1992 to \$1,466 million in 1996. Imports, on the other hand, grew in the same period only by 32 per cent (6.4 per cent annually), from \$3,257 million to \$4,292 million. While no causation may exist between the net-export growth rate and globalisation, even the most conservative observers would view this as a positive co-occurrence.

Over two centuries ago, the dominant view regarding international trade was mercantilism. The mercantilists, then, perceived cross-border trade as a zero-sum game, "Our gain is their loss, and vice versa." They advocated that nations should strive to create export surpluses to increase the stock of gold and silver, which would later be borrowed or acquired through taxation by the state to enhance national power; this was indeed prominent among the reasons that brought forward the age of imperialism. The mercantilist view was almost single-handedly challenged and, at least in

England, was bitterly defeated by Adam Smith, the greatest economist yet.

In his magnum opus, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Adam Smith stated, "What is prudence in the conduct of every private family, can scarce be folly in that of a great kingdom."

"If a foreign country can supply us with a commodity cheaper than ourselves can make it, better buy it of them with some part of the produce of our industry, employed in a way which we have some advantage."

In other words, nations by specialising in what they do best and trading with other nations they can create gains which, otherwise, would have been lost to the inefficiencies embedded in trying to make everything the outrageous (and yet unfortunately so widely believed) so-called self-sufficiency myth. This concept became later known as the doctrine of Comparative Advantage as David Ricardo, Adam Smith's greatest expositor in this regard, further articulated the issue in his book *Principles of Political Economy* (1817).

This work and the intellectual efforts of others led to the demise of mercantilism as the dominant paradigm of free trade.

Still, Alexander Hamilton, in his seminal book, *Report on the Subject of Manufactures* (1791), articulated another view that encouraged protectionism for the infant industries of a nation. In his book, he stated that it would be an inanity to assume that young or small enterprises would withstand the onslaught of competition from long-established and larger foreign companies.

Thus, Hamilton advocated protecting infant industries for specific time periods; a view which was espoused and expounded 50 years later by the German philosopher Friedrich List. List saw in free trade

a trick for slowing and undermining the progress of the less developed nations. It seems that his view still strikes a cord of reason among many, particularly non-economists.

Of course, underlying this premise is the assumption that the infant industry would grow in the future, achieve economies of scale or scope and become competitive in the global market.

This logic also sub-presumes that political leaders would be able to remove the protection once the industry matures; which, given the commonplace realities of the world of politics — especially in democratic societies — would be quite impossible as no politician would want the removal of a subsidy or trade-barrier on his watch.

The latest competitive advantage model, which has found acceptance among a new and vibrant generation of business economists, describes the business enterprise to evolve in an environment of cooperation and competition.

Firms specialise and outsource in clusters that form an environment for growth and value enhancement, while competitors keep companies lean and vigilant.

On the other hand, protectionism would create businesses that are fat, old and ugly. They become heavy with protection, old from using outdated technologies and ugly from using low quality inputs which do not address customer needs and lead to low-quality products which in turn demand low prices that lead to under-employment or unemployment, low wages, low savings and a diminished national welfare.

Of course, the debate is still not mutated into equanimity and, thus, remains alive; in the case of Jordan, however, the answer should be clear, or is it?



M. KAHIL

Indonesia: The evolution of revolution

By Gwynne Dyer

BY NOW everybody knows the drill for non-violent revolution: in the past decade it has picked off tough targets like the South Korean generals, the Soviet Communist Party, and the apartheid regime in South Africa. But it is still very hard to do, as the survivors of Tiananmen Square know to their cost — and as the students in Jakarta have just learned.

The trigger for four days of bloody rioting, looting and arson in the Indonesian capital was a non-violent demonstration against the 30-year rule of the dictator Suharto by 5,000 students from Trisakti University on May 12. They marched off the campus in good spirits but with high discipline: most had seen videos of how this sort of thing is done, and they understood the psychology of it.

Police blocked the road, and were soon reinforced by armoured cars, but no student threw a stone or a bottle, or even shouted rude comments about the policemen's mothers. Instead, they went up to the police with roses (thoughtfully purchased beforehand) and pushed them into their gun-barrels. It's all highly predictable, even ritualistic stuff, but it usually works.

It's hard to shoot somebody who has just given you flowers. It's even harder for an officer to give the order to shoot, especially if he has to do it on live television. Non-violence is not naive goodwill; it is a tough tactic for real politics, based on acute observation of how human psychology actually works. Non-violence has come a long

way since the time of Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, when the opponents were democratic governments that basically knew they were in the wrong. Now it has to take on the far tougher challenges of military dictatorships and even Communist regimes, but the basic principle is the same: you don't want to fight the police, but to win them over to your side.

If the non-violent revolutionaries end up controlling the streets, or just key symbolic areas of the capital city, and the regime cannot get its troops to shoot them, then the regime is finished. By the same token, however, the regime's interest lies in pushing the scene on the streets from disciplined protest into random violence — because it then becomes legitimate to use far greater amounts of official violence to "restore order".

The policemen who serve dictatorial regimes have done their homework, and nowadays they understand the dialectic of non-violence too. There is evolution in revolutionary tactics, as in everything else: it's not as easy as it was in 1986 in Manila, or in 1989 in Prague.

Nobody knows if the plain clothes policeman who started a scuffle with some students from Trisakti just as they were heading back to the campus was under orders to create a pretext for the police to start shooting, but it would not be surprising. At any rate, he did the job.

The police opened fire and chased the students back onto the campus, killing six of them — but then the whole city of Jakarta blew up in their faces. At least 200 people were dead

by week's end, and large areas of the city had been pillaged.

Every big city contains some people who will seize any pretext to riot, just to create the right conditions for looting: you're never that far away from chaos anywhere. But poor countries in acute economic distress — the normal end-of-regime situation in Third World dictatorships — contain millions of desperate people.

If a regime under siege by non-violent methods cannot shift the dynamic to violence, it loses automatically, so it is bound to try. But violence, once unleashed, is hard to confine — and if it gets completely out of hand, the regime is discredited anyway.

That is what occurred in Jakarta last week, and as a result Suharto is finished. But then, he was probably finished anyway. The problem now is that the violence greatly complicates the transition process. There will probably still be a democratic Indonesia in the end, but other outcomes have become more possible, and ugly things may happen along the way.

It will get very ugly indeed if Suharto hangs on for weeks while the mobs rage, the army splits, and separatist tendencies gain ground in places like northern Sumatra and West Irian. Sixty per cent of Indonesia's 200 million people live on the island of Java and speak only three closely related languages, but the rest of the sprawling archipelago is a linguistic and ethnic patchwork quilt of huge complexity.

Worst of all, the mobs will turn on the Chinese minority, with the regime's tacit blessing. (So long as they are looting

Chinese shops, they aren't attacking the presidential palace.)

In the year of violence that marked the 1965 transition from Indonesia's first leader, Sukarno, to its present one, Suharto, at least half of the estimated 500,000 dead were from the Chinese minority, though Chinese-Indonesians are only three per cent of the population. If something like that happened again, a more powerful, better armed China might even be tempted to intervene militarily this time. But this is the nightmare scenario, and not very likely.

The sooner Suharto's opponents can get back to non-violent tactics, the better, but for that they need both boldness and unity. "We would need hundreds of thousands of people on the street under a single programme before we can begin to think of a February '86 Manila ('people power') scenario," said University of Sydney academic Gerry Van Klinken last week, and so far that has not happened.

Neither of the two most important opposition leaders, Amien Rais of the Muhammadiyah movement and Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of the former dictator Sukarno, has yet dared to make an uncompromising public commitment to Suharto's overthrow. Without that, the Indonesian revolution will drag on for weeks, killing more and more people, wrecking what is left of the economy, and threatening the peace of Asia.

Human Rights

Sri Lanka asked to face up to plight of migrant workers

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

DURING THE examination of the Sri Lankan report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the plight of Sri Lankan migrant workers, especially Sri Lankan domestic help, was raised with a vengeance. The Sri Lankan delegation was quizzed on many issues ranging from the armed conflict with the Tamil Tigers to differential treatment being accorded to various ethnic and religious groups. But it was the situation of migrant workers that received considerable scrutiny.

The delegation was asked point blank why the government appears to be callous when it comes to the rights of their people in the service of others in far away countries. It was not only the abuses that Sri Lankan women are being subjected to that attracted attention but also the impact of their prolonged separation from their children on the well-being of these children.

I was in the forefront of the members who questioned the Sri Lankan delegation on their government's stance on hundreds of thousands of women and men working in the Middle East and the Gulf region. I concentrated on the impact of their overseas employment on the emotional well-being of their children who are deprived maternal love and care often for several years.

The delegation did not see the problem as grave enough to warrant special scrutiny. These migrant workers, we were told, leave their homeland of their own volition to better themselves economically. It is their choice, we were reminded, and no one coerced them to leave and find employment elsewhere.

Many members rebutted this governmental assertion by reminding the delegation that had Sri Lanka provided adequate employment opportunities to these masses of people, they would not have left their countries and their families. The government must bear responsibility for driving people to leave their loved ones in order to make ends meet. Besides, why not show some care for these migrant workers by checking in on them and their status once in a while.

In a private meeting with the head of the Sri Lankan delegation, I suggested that they appoint someone in the government to visit all the countries where there are Sri Lankan migrant workers on a periodic basis to make sure they are being well treated. I thought that a visit by a minister to the area on a periodic basis would go a long way to raise the interest of the host countries to the plight of Sri Lankan domestic help. Better still, the appointment of a full-fledged consul in every country where there is a sizeable number of Sri Lankan workers would certainly help.

Sri Lanka can also enter into agreements with countries hosting these workers regulating their pay and working conditions. They need someone to call should they be subjected to any kind of abuse. There was a consensus that most Sri Lankan workers are treated as slaves with no rights or protection to speak of. The government delegation must have sensed the anguish of the committee over the plight of Sri Lankan nationals working in foreign lands and hopefully something will soon be done to alleviate their conditions.

Numeira

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles on the last 25 years of work in the Southern Ghos in the Dead Sea coast. Today's article examines the archaeological excavations of the site of Numeira and some recently excavated adjacent sites. Upcoming articles will review the results of recent scientific work at Sali, Feich, Kana, Ma'ara and other sites in the area and consider the remains of the prehistoric sites of the Dead Sea coast and other sites in the region.

THE EARLY Bronze Age site of Numeira, located on the Dead Sea coastal highway, some 14 kilometres south of the Karak-Southern Ghos junction, at the point where the Dead Sea enters the floor of the valley. Recent work in the area has identified and partly excavated the site from the Nabatean, Byzantine and Abbasid-Mamluk periods, attesting to the archaeological wealth of an area that until recently had been largely overlooked for its Early Bronze Age remains.

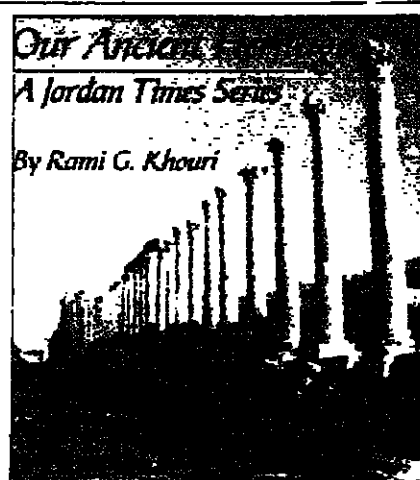
The American archaeologist Nelson Glueck, while inspecting the more easily visible Ramat Numeira in 1934, saw the remains of Numeira town site and recognised it as an ancient settlement, but did not appreciate its full significance. He passed through it briefly and picked up "a few indistinguishable sherds" along "a large rectangular area with some traces of what may have been originally an enclosing wall." In 1973, the American scholars leading the Expedition to the South-East Dead Sea Plain in Jordan, Walter Rast and Tom Schaub, examined Numeira more closely and identified it as a walled town dating from the EB III period (c. 2500-2300 BC). Four seasons of excavations between 1977-1983 and more recent analyses of the excavated materials have shown that the walled town of Numeira existed for perhaps a century towards the end of the EB III period. It had close links with the big EB III city at Bah ed-Dera. Dr. Michael Coogan, who headed the last three

By Gwynne Dyer

His descendants are anything to go by. Nelson didn't look nearly as good as Clive. Nelson Brando, or Mel Gibson (the all-plastic film). But two centuries, five months and 14 days "Bounty" on 28 April, 1980, on the South Pacific to which the mutineers fled, long-haired layabout," says Maunaloa, a great-grandson of Captain Bligh, whom Christian set adrift with eighteen men in an open boat. Bligh's descendants took an old photograph of Fletcher Christian when he was the same age as Fletcher Christian's son, "I showed it to some of the family," smirked Bligh. "It was nonsense," replied Australian Fletcher Christian, a descendant of the mutineer, and threatened to "come to England and the other mutineers, whether they're on Pitcairn Island or elsewhere, and I'll always be the character created by Fletcher Christian will always be the mutineer."

The latest skirmish in the long battle between Nelson and Bligh was fought in London in March. Nelson Bligh suggested that Fletcher Christian had been a mutineer, a notion based on a 19th century British view of the world. That annoyed people, but not as much as Fletcher's recent suggestion that Christian was a repressed homosexual. Last year, Nelson had already irritated the locals by calling them "Paradise." Her speculations about the mutineer's sexual orientation, in a book called "The Mutineer," outraged them. A spokesperson, Brenda Christian, said

Numeira region in Southern Ghors starts to reveal more than Early Bronze Age walled towns



Our Ancient
A Jordan Times Series
By Rami G. Khouri

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles on the last 25 years of work in the Southern Ghors region along the south-east Dead Sea coast. Today's article examines the excavated Early Bronze Age town site of Numeira and some recently excavated adjacent sites. Upcoming articles will review the results of recent scholarly work at Safi, Feifeh, Khneizira, Ma'ara, and other sites in the area, and consider the question of whether the remains of the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and other Cities of the Plain may be located in this area.

THE EARLY Bronze Age walled town site of Numeira occupies the flat hilltop of a promontory next to the Dead Sea coastal highway, some 14 kilometres south of the Karak-Southern Ghors junction, at the point where Wadi Numeira enters the floor of the valley. Recent work in the area has identified and partly excavated sites from the Nabataean, Byzantine and Ayyubid-Mamluke periods, attesting to the archaeological wealth of an area that until recently had been largely renowned for its Early Bronze Age remains.

The American archaeologist Nelson Glueck, while inspecting the more easily visible Ruim en-Numeira in 1934, saw the remains of Numeira town site and recognised it as an ancient settlement, but did not appreciate its full significance. He passed through it briefly and picked up "a few indistinguishable sherds," noting "a large rectangular area with some traces of what may have been originally an enclosing wall." In 1973, the American scholars heading the Expedition to the South-East Dead Sea Plain in Jordan, Walter Rast and Tom Schaub, examined Numeira more closely and identified it as a walled town dating from the EB III period (c. 2750-2300 BC). Four seasons of excavations between 1977-1983 and more recent analyses of the excavated materials have shown that the walled town at Numeira existed for perhaps a century towards the end of the EB III period. It had close links with the bigger EB III city at Bab edh-Dhra'. Dr. Michael Coogan, who headed the last three



General view of Numeira townsite on its hilltop-promontory overlooking the Dead Sea plain; the people are standing in the area of the town's fortified tower at the east end of the site (Photos by Rami G. Khouri)

digging seasons at the site, sees Numeira as "almost a colony of Bab edh-Dhra', with clear cultural connections between the two sites," while Schaub says Numeira may be a "satellite" settlement reflecting the expansion of the Bab edh-Dhra' community towards the south. Among the shared cultural features between the two settlements are similar fortification walls; circular, flat-stone cooking areas; ceramic and flint tool repertoires; jar-based storage techniques; and agricultural systems that employed irrigation and crop rotation to grow barley, wheat, grapes, flax, olives, chickpeas, dates, lentils and figs.

A single-period site

Unlike Bab edh-Dhra', Numeira seems to have been inhabited only during the EB III period, though there may have been an earlier EB I occupation east of Numeira, further up in the adjacent hills. After its destruction around 2350 B.C., the town site was abandoned and never again resettled.

The settlement measured just over one hectare in size, and was protected by a four-metre-thick stone and mud-brick town wall; the wall

was interrupted at seven-metre intervals by transverse sections — showing exactly the same EB III town wall engineering as that which was used at Bab edh-Dhra'. Within its walls, the town of Numeira consisted of scores of houses, typically comprising covered rooms built around an open courtyard (suggesting family-based organisation). The domestic units were arranged around a main street that crossed the town in an east-west direction. The outlines of the street are still visible on the ground today. The house rooms seem to have had specialised uses, e.g., to store foodstuffs in large ceramic jars, pits or plastered bins; to cook or bake on one-metre-diameter circles of flat stones embedded in the ground; to prepare food; to repair and store ceramic jars; to weave; or to sleep. Particularly, most doorways were blocked with stones, apparently shortly before the final abandonment of the town after a violent earthquake. One theory sees the blocked doors as evidence that the inhabitants of Numeira may have anticipated the earthquake, and deliberately abandoned the town temporarily for the safety of nearby open areas.

Some scholars suggest the inhabitants may have emptied their houses of valuables (most storage pits were found empty, and no small finds, jewellery, gold or other precious items were recovered in the dig), blocked their doors for safety, cleared out the centre of the town (no dead bodies were found in the ashy debris of the final destruction within the walls), and evacuated the town, perhaps planning to return after the anticipated tremor. Earlier ashy destruction levels suggest Numeira may have suffered a previous but milder tremor, after which it was rebuilt. There is possible evidence for this earlier calamity in the excavation of the east tower, a massive (10 x 7.4-metre) stone tower entered via a staircase which still had traces of plaster on its lower steps. Excavations showed the tower to be a later addition to the city's fortifications, perhaps reflecting a worsening security situation in the area around or just before 2400 B.C. The tower excavations also produced two different layers of burnt destruction debris with the remains of human victims, indicating that the city was twice destroyed — one destruction during its life

span, and another that finally brought the city to an end. If not from an earthquake, the earlier destruction may reflect military attacks during a period of political difficulties that required the addition of a major fortified tower to secure the town's defensive system.

Coogan believes Numeira was finally abandoned after extensive earthquake damage, evident throughout the site in the form of thick ashy layers, burnt roof timbers, and collapsed walls. The final destruction of the town was sudden and devastating; parts of the site had 1.5-metre-thick destruction debris and up to 40-centimetre-thick ash layers, which sealed in the occupation layers until they were examined by archaeologists this century. Freshly picked grapes with their skins still intact, carbonised in the burning associated with the final destruction of the town, help archaeologists pinpoint the destruction of Numeira to the late summer or early autumn.

Geology's impact

Geological investigations by Dr. Jack Donahue of the

University of Pittsburgh suggest that the Wadi Numeira river bed, now north of the site, may have flowed just south of the town during the EB III period. He speculates that the same earthquake that destroyed the city around 2350 B.C. also may have caused the wadi bed to shift to the north of the walled town site. Much of the mound on the north side of the site, and parts of the town wall and related towers, have eroded away due to the action of water and alluvial matter coming down Wadi Numeira during the past 4000 years. The Wadi Numeira river bed is now as much as 50 metres lower than it was during the EB III period. Alluvial remains can still be seen high up among the rocks on the north side of the wadi, where it emerges from the hills to the east. In antiquity, the walled town would have been perched on its high alluvial hilltop immediately adjacent to the perennial flow of Wadi Numeira, enjoying a good vantage point and access to fine agricultural lands all around it.

Partly confirming the theory of the shifting of Wadi Numeira to the north was the discovery of an EB I period walled town just north-east of Numeira, called Ras en-Numeira. This earlier town had a 1.75-metre-thick fortification wall, with mud-brick buttressing along its south side and all occupation to its north. The occupational evidence on the north side of Ras en-Numeira was almost entirely washed away after Wadi Numeira shifted its course to the north. Some scholars believe Wadi Numeira is the stream called the Waters of Nimrin in the Bible (Isaiah 15:6; Jeremiah 48:34) that reportedly dried up in antiquity (though many other scholars locate the Waters of Nimrin much further north).

at Wadi Shu'eib/Wadi Nimrin in the south Jordan River Valley, near South Sheueh town).

Cemetery still sought

There is no firm evidence of an EB III cemetery at Numeira, though surface remains hint at a cemetery site south of the walled town. As all the other EB

walled towns in the Southern Ghors had associated cemeteries, Numeira should logically have one as well. One theory suggests that the inhabitants of Numeira buried their dead in the massive EB III cemetery at Bab edh-Dhra', where typical Numeira pottery has been found in some charnel houses. Another possibility is that Numeira's cemetery was located north of the site, in which case it would have been completely washed away by the erosion action of Wadi Numeira.

Work at Numeira has also provided new evidence that the Southern Ghors were more extensively occupied in antiquity than had been previously thought. A survey of a 5 x 1-kilometre strip on each side of Numeira identified 40 new sites that had not been known of previously, ranging in date from the Chalcolithic to the Mamluke periods.

Most recent excavations

The latest excavations in the Numeira area were conducted in 1995-96 by a Department of Antiquities team from the Cultural Resources Management department, headed by Dr. Mohammad Waheeb. They carried out emergency excavations at three sites near the Numeira town site that were threatened with damage due to the construction of the new highway in that area.

The most visible site is that of Ruim en-Numeira, which stands immediately west of the highway on the stretch of land leading westwards to the Dead Sea shoreline, about 200 metres south of EB Numeira. It measures 17 x 19 metres, and stands nearly five metres high. Glueck and others saw it as one of a series of Nabataean stations along the route from Aqaba to Karak, via Wadi Araba and the Southern Ghors. Glueck also saw traces of former cultivation between the ruim ('tower') and the Dead Sea shore.

The recent excavations of the eastern side of the ruim uncovered a complete architectural unit

comprising several walls that formed small rooms. The structures were built on a series of terraces that raised them above the level of the plain and protected them from the erosion action of the wadi.

The structure seems to have been a Nabataean tower that watched over the eastern Dead Sea plain, to judge from Nabataean lamps, a juglet and numerous pottery sherds. The site was inhabited again during the Byzantine period, when it accommodated a large settlement in the 6th Century AD. Dr. Waheeb said in a recent interview. Parts of the large Byzantine cemetery have been identified around the ruim, but in many areas it had been robbed out already.

Numeira 4

Dr. Waheeb's team discovered a new site north-west of Ruim Numeira that they have called Numeira 4. This site was covered with small and medium stones mixed with sand and pebbles, due to the seasonal erosion activity of the wadi. The excavations uncovered several rooms whose walls were constructed of undressed sandstone and limestone. The site dates from the Ayyubid-Mamluke period and seems to have been a rather substantial workshop that may have been associated with a press for the sugar industry that is well attested from that period in this region. The site's component elements included a basin, a well, water channels, and a pottery kiln. The most common finds at the site were fragments of sugarpots and painted pottery sherds from the Ayyubid-Mamluke era (1174-1516 AD). A survey west of the site, along the Dead Sea shore, revealed collapsed walls and arches, with which were associated pottery sherds from the Byzantine and Ayyubid-Mamluke eras.

Pitcairn: The never-ending story

By Gwynne Dyer

IF HIS descendants are anything to go by, Fletcher Christian didn't look nearly as good as Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, or Mel Gibson (who all played him on film). But two centuries, five movies and 2,500 books and articles after Christian led a mutiny on H.M.S. 'Bounty' on 28 April, 1789, controversy still swirls around the whole episode — and around Pitcairn Island, the then uninhabited speck of rock in the South Pacific to which the mutineers fled.

"Fletcher Christian was a 5ft 9in (1.75 m), bow-legged, long-haired layabout," says Maurice Bligh, great-great-grandson of Captain William Bligh, whom Christian set adrift with eighteen loyal crew members in an open boat. Bligh's descendant has found an old photograph of Fletcher Christian's son, taken when he was the same age as Fletcher at the time of the mutiny. "I showed it to some ladies and they went 'Ugh'," smirked Bligh.

Perpetuous nonsense, replied Australian TV chef Glyn Christian, a descendant of the mutineer's leader, and threatened to "come to England and smack Bligh in the face." For the descendants of Christian and the other mutineers, whether they still live on Pitcairn Island or elsewhere, Captain Bligh will always be the character created by Charles Laughton, a brutal, foppish pig of a man, and Fletcher Christian will always be the humanitarian hero.

The latest skirmish in the long battle between the families was fought in London in March, at the annual meeting of the Pitcairn Island Study Group. Maurice Bligh suggested that Fletcher Christian was high on laudanum, a potion based on opium and alcohol that 18th century Britons viewed as the cure for almost everything, when he launched the mutiny. That annoyed people, but not as much as Dea Birken's recent suggestion that Christian was driven by repressed homosexual lust.

Birken, who spent four months on Pitcairn a few years ago, had already irritated the locals by writing an uncompromising book about them called 'Serpent in Paradise'. Her speculations about their founding father's sexual orientation, in a recent BBC radio documentary, so outraged them that Pitcairn spokesperson Brenda Christian said she

should be hanged. "It's not quite a farwah," explained Ms. Christian, "but she's not welcome (on Pitcairn)."

Frankly, she's not likely to want to go back anyway, because it seems never to have been a happy place. In fact, according to a journal which has just been acquired by Britain's National Maritime Museum, the early years were a nightmare of violence.

After setting Captain Bligh and eighteen others adrift (the fact that half the crew chose to stay with him even in such dire circumstances speaks well of Bligh), the mutineers took the 'Bounty' to Tahiti. Sixteen of the less intelligent ones had a splendid time there until a British warship arrived. Then they were all arrested, and three were eventually hanged.

Within ten years all but one of the English mutineers were dead, most of them murdered — and every Tahitian man was dead.

By then, however, Christian and eight brighter mutineers had sailed off in the 'Bounty' with some Tahitian men and women in search of a safer haven. It didn't compare with Captain Bligh's epic feat — he crossed 3,900 miles (6,300 km) of open ocean with no charts and little food in a 23ft (7m) boat and landed his men safely in Timor — but after four months Fletcher's men found the most isolated island in the world: Pitcairn.

Potentially paradise, but people bring their own bells with them. Within ten years all but one of the English mutineers were dead, most of them murdered — and every Tahitian man was dead.

The 'Pitcairn Island Register' tells the tale. The single entry for the year 1793 reads: "Massacre of part of the mutineers by the Tahitians. The Tahiti men all killed, part by jealousies among themselves, the others by the remaining Englishmen." Fletcher Christian was killed, and only four of the mutineers survived. In 1798 one of them committed suicide in

an alcoholic delirium, and the following year two of the others, convinced that the third was plotting to murder them, killed him with an axe.

By the time a Boston sea-captain stumbled on the colony in 1808, only John Adams was alive of all the men, and the violence had subsided. Today there are 38 people on the island, all descended from the 27 who arrived in 'Bounty' in 1790, speaking a blend of English and Polynesian known as Pitkern. They live in what many people think is paradise — but they still aren't very happy.

"We went there for one incident," wrote Detective Superintendent Dennis McGookin in late 1996, after he travelled to Pitcairn (still a British colony) to investigate a rape case, "but when we got there it turned into numerous incidents. There's alcohol-related crime and violent crime and...there are more guns on that island than anybody needs. The islanders need to get their act together or somebody is going to get killed."

Pitcairn's isolation makes it seem romantic: it is 3,200 miles (5,200 km) from New Zealand, 3,200 miles from South America, and there is no airstrip. The islanders grow sugar cane, arrowroot and breadfruit, and sell baskets and wood carvings of sharks to the few ships that call, but there is not really an economy in the modern sense. The basic problem, in other words, may be boredom.

McGookin was so shocked by what he saw that he recommended the island be abandoned "if the residents didn't pull their socks up." Instead, the British government is now spending \$50,000 a year to station a policeman there for six to eight weeks a year. It may help matters, and it may not — but it does leave you with a vague feeling that William Bligh may not have been all bad.

In an age when Royal Navy captains who lost their ships to mutiny were invariably cashiered, Bligh not only stayed in the navy. He served with distinction in the Napoleonic wars, and rose to the rank of admiral. Whereas Fletcher Christian died amidst drunken violence, and even today Pitcairn sees a good deal of both.

It makes you wonder: traditions are not just accidents. But then you realise that Mel Gibson would never have agreed to play Fletcher Christian unless he really was the good guy. So that's all right, then.

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U.K. firms look at Iran oil, gas buy-back projects

TEHRAN (R) — An official British trade mission, the first to visit Iran in two years, discussed ways to get involved in the next round of Iran's oil and gas buy-back projects, the head of the delegation said Sunday.

"The meetings will be a very good building block for the future," said Jennifer Wright of the British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The week-long mission comes about one month before Iran is expected to announce the next round of oil and gas buy-back projects.

The delegation met Sunday with officials from Iran's oil and gas industry and its Chamber of Commerce and will engage in private meetings for most of the rest of the trip, Ms. Wright told Reuters.

"There is a lot of potential

in Iran, particularly in the oil and gas sector on these buy-back projects," Britain's commercial attache Gareth Lungley said.

Iran has said it would soon set a date to offer 20 oil and gas buy-back projects. Such projects would involve firms financing projects for repayment in oil and gas production.

Members of the mission, which includes manufacturers of electrical switchgear, cables and equipment for the oil, gas, petrochemical and power sectors, would compete for sub-contracts, Mr. Lungley said.

Three investment banks were among the 13 companies represented, Lungley said.

The banks, HSBC Investment Bank Plc, Paribas London and ANZ Grindlays, are expected to explore possibilities of set-

ting up branches in Iran's free trade zones, newspaper reports said.

Iran set up three free trade zones on the Gulf islands of Kish and Qeshm and in the southeastern port of Chahbahar in 1989. It recently announced new laws allowing foreign banks to set up branches in the free trade zones.

Ms. Wright said the British delegation was bullish on business prospects with Iran, noting that despite formidable obstacles, "we realise it is certainly worth being in Iran."

"Iran is a high-risk market but there are also high returns," Mr. Lungley said. Iran is seeking foreign investment in its oil and gas industry and has seen a stream of European trade delegations visit the country this year in search of business opportunities. Despite political differ-

ences between Britain and Iran, annual trade between the two countries has remained static at an average of \$650 million, Mr. Lungley said.

British Petroleum Co. Plc said last week it was opening a representative office in Tehran but would wait for normalised international relations with Iran before resuming business with the Islamic republic.

Since last year, Washington has been considering whether a \$2 billion deal struck by France's Total, Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas to develop a major Iranian gas field violates U.S. law.

Some 30 British firms attended an international oil and gas fair in Tehran last month at which Britain's department of trade and industry was officially represented for the first time in 20 years.

Israeli unemployment steady, economic growth still slow

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of job seekers in Israel rose 0.3 per cent in April to 163,900 after jumping 6.5 per cent the previous month, the labour ministry announced Sunday.

The latest figure represents an additional 500 Israelis registered with the Labour Ministry as looking for work, it said.

Total unemployment stood at 8.3 per cent of the working population in March.

Analysts attribute the relatively small increase in April in part to the fact that the labour ministry and economy in general operated for reduced hours during the month due to a series of holidays, especially the eight-day Jewish Passover celebration.

Labour Minister Eli Yishai said the latest figures "should not reassure the government because the economy is still slowing down."

In a separate report issued Sunday the government statistics bureau said gross domestic product (GDP) grew only one per cent during the first quarter of the year, the same rate as during the last three months of 1997.

Overall economic growth in 1997 stood at two per cent and current forecasts for 1998 predict GDP will rise by at most 1.5 per cent — compared to growth of 4.5 per cent in 1996 and 7.1 per cent in 1995.

Last week the government approved a \$280 million public works investment project in a bid to boost employment, but several ministers criticised the plan as too timid.

Asia urged to shed 'dangerous' view on financial sector protection

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Most Asian governments are operating under the dangerous assumption that local financial institutions should be protected despite calls to open them up to accelerate economic recovery, a report

said Sunday. "This logic is not consistent with international reality," the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. (PERC) said in its latest fortnightly report on Asia business and politics.

PERC said few financial institutions in the United States, where the biggest restructuring of all was taking place, felt "safe."

It added that paranoia for bankers in that country seemed to be the order of the day as new technology and size considerations completely reshaped the industry.

"It would be nice if Asian financial institutions could have reason to think they can afford to be less paranoid, but they cannot," PERC said. "They will ultimately have to go through the same reshaping."

At a time when domestic financial institutions were being made more competitive, the standard of international competition was being raised to levels that few governments in the region were even contemplating, the report said.

But most Asian governments had a "dangerous assumption" that "although domestic financial systems need to be opened more to foreign investment, a good measure of protection can still be given to local financial institutions to ensure they have a dominant place on the local playing field," it added.

Other such assumptions, PERC noted, were that the

rapid decline of the Asian currencies since mid-1997 would enable the region to embark on an export-led recovery and that the problems of every country were mainly "imported."

"Perhaps this (export-led recovery) could happen, but as yet there is absolutely no evidence that this is so," PERC said.

Throughout the region, it said, improvements in trade and current account balances had been almost exclusively to falling imports, not to accelerating exports.

When the Asian currency crisis began in July 1997, it was largely expected that the devaluations of Asian currencies would help boost those countries' exports.

It argued that the contention by most Asian governments that the problems they faced were mainly imported was "typical political buck-passing."

PERC said that while the catalyst which threw most Asian countries into crisis was external, the root of the problems which had fed the crisis had been almost exclusively domestic.

"And real solutions will come about only when countries take their own medicine, not when they wait for their neighbours to take the cure."

Japan optimistic on economy

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese officials expressed optimism for the ailing economy on Sunday, forecasting a recovery later this year when the nation's largest economic package is expected to begin bearing fruit.

"The economy would pick up at the beginning of this autumn if we implement the economic measures," Koichi Kato, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told a television station.

The government announced a record 16.6-trillion-yen (\$124-billion) spending package in late April to rescue the world's second largest economy from recession.

Koji Omi, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said the economy would start recovering as early as next month, when parliament is expected to pass extra budget to finance the package.

"Once the special budget passes the diet, the economy would definitely recover," the chief economic planner of the government said in a separate interview.

"Even before the passage, it would have a psychological impact on the economy," he said. "Recovery is not so far from now."

Economic data released so far this month, however,

failed to indicate a bright future.

The economic planning agency said last week Japan's economy remained "stagnant," struggling to pull itself into shape.

"As the (negative) impact of stagnant final demand is spreading across a broad area of economic activity... the economy remains stagnant, and downward pressure is increasing," the agency said in its monthly report.

The government said in early May that Japan's unemployment rate in March jumped to its worst level since the government started compiling the data in 1953.

The Bank of Japan recorded a large drop in wholesale prices last Tuesday, with overall domestic prices down 2.7 per cent, their largest year-on-year fall in more than ten years.

The chief economist at Japan's central bank last week gave a rare warning that the world's second largest economy risks being hit by deflation as prices fall.

"There is a risk that deflation will creep up," Masayuki Matsushima, the Bank of Japan's research and statistics department director, said in an interview with the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 18, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A meeting with a friend should go well, although it looks like there's a lot of money. If you toss around a few ideas, you'll be up with a way to raise more funds. Do that instead of trying to scrimp any further. You've already done as much as you possibly can.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An older person's authority figure has figured out how you're supposed to act. This does not sit well with you. Actually, your feelings might be based on a misunderstanding. Step up. It might get you a better relationship and a better assignment than you would have had otherwise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You're being pushed to finish something you've already begun. You would have finished it by now, but there was something about it that rendered you unable to make up your mind. Well, this is the day to decide. Don't put it off any longer.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) People are saying about what should be done, and how it should be done. You're wise, but why don't you just listen for a while? Gather information without offering any suggestions yet. You'll be able to make a much wiser showing when you wait.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you're in negotiations with a Scorpio, you're definitely stuck. On the other hand, conditions today are very stable. This is a good time to make a decision, especially if you invite a Scorpio to participate. If you don't, you may wish later that you had. Work it out.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your work is intense and complicated. There might even be some breakdowns. Don't despair. You've got extra energy and patience. Take time to figure out a mechanical problem now, with the help of an expert. You won't have time later in the week.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a strong romantic side, most of it intellectual. You tend to fall for people who can carry on a good conversation. You should be able to generate a spectacular one this evening. Invite the most interesting person you know over to your place.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You like to come up with the winning decision because you're so often right, at least in your own eyes. Today, your offer will be counteroffered, then counter-offered. Figure out a way to reach a compromise. If you can do that, everybody ends up a big winner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're learning quickly, and you're applying what you learn to your career. You might feel bogged down and wonder if you're really getting ahead at all. It might even look like what you're doing isn't working. That's just an optical illusion. Don't give up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There's a decision to be made concerning love and money. You don't have to choose between the two, but you may not be able to have both at the same time. If you share a goal, it won't be such a hardship. In fact, it'll be fun. Make that your priority.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You'll get a rocket boost in a couple of days, especially in the area of romance. Might as well prepare now. You and your sweetheart have things to talk about. Money, for example, and how you're going to spend it around the house. Handle that tonight so you'll have plenty of time to play later.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think carefully about what you do okay. There's no point in trying to postpone decisions, however. Somebody is pressuring you to comply right now. It's some sort of assignment that's way overdue. Go ahead. You'll be so proud of yourself and so relieved once it's finished.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

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P.O. Box: 17101 - Amman-11195 — Jordan

Only short-listed applicants would be invited for interview.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

THSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

- 1 Trip in the bush
- 7 Moistened periodically
- 13 Parotic
- 14 Busybody
- 16 Shaded walkway of the Southwest
- 17 Cupidity
- 18 "The Rape of the Women"
- 19 Natural medicine that induces vomiting
- 20 Govt. agent
- 21 Indy winner of 1966
- 25 Discourteous
- 26 Set sights
- 28 Special, e.g.
- 29 Makes holes
- 30 987-65-4321
- 31 Like winds and rivers
- 34 Snaky turn
- 35 Kinder
- 36 Top marksman
- 39 Competence
- 40 Exist
- 43 Jefferson
- 45 Buddhist branch
- 46 Alternative to ale
- 48 Algerian port
- 49 Passover meal
- 51 Costa
- 52 Speaker's platform
- 54 Brings joy
- 56 UAE constituent
- 58 Blatant deception
- 59 Loyal fan
- 60 Oenologists
- 61 Marquis
- 62 Diminishes

DOWN

- 1 Island in the Saronic Gulf
- 2 Gulf state
- 3 Oratic food shortage
- 4 Arabian gulf
- 5 Commuter
- 6 One-million connection
- 7 Withdrawn
- 8 Incus inside one's ear
- 9 Cleansing agent
- 10 Celebrity in the Corrida
- 11 Food expert
- 12 Millennia
- 13 Spaghetti, ziti, etc.
- 15 Break in the school day
- 22 Struggle
- 23 Pressured into buying
- 24 Benzene derivative
- 27 Painter of ballet dancers
- 29 Mineral that marauds
- 31 Withdrawn
- 32 Old pro
- 36 Idolized
- 37 Collided and rebounded
- 38 Intentionally vague
- 40 Unsettled
- 41 Withdrawn
- 42 Deities
- 44 Lead-ins
- 47 Noah's peak
- 49 Fully full
- 50 Betty Ford Clinic, e.g.
- 53 Pro
- 55 Rastrian
- 56 Large shoe width
- 57 It's pro

Peanuts

ALL RIGHT, THERE'S ONE COOKIE LEFT... WE'LL VOTE TO DECIDE WHO GETS IT...

I VOTE FOR ME SO I GET IT!

VOTER FRAUD!

Andy Capp

ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW MANY PLAYERS YOU'VE LEFT FOR THE REST OF THE GAME?

NO IDEA, PET — A BLOKE WHO DOES THINGS THAT COUNT DOESN'T USUALLY STOP TO COUNT 'EM — RIGHT?

Mutt'n'Jeff

SO YOU WANT A JOB, EMP? DO YOU EVER TELL LIES?

NO SIR, BUT I CAN LEARN!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO LIE AFTER THEY DIE?

THEY LIE STILL!

YOU ONLY GET CAUGHT IF YOU NEVER GET ANYWHERE!

THAT'S RIGHT! I WOULD NOT TELL A LIE! NEVER!

MY UNCLE CHARLIE TOLD ME A LIE ONCE IN COURT!

HAPPENED! YES, WHAT?

HE WON THE CASE!

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GIASBERGEN

"The patch helps control my craving for stimulating, intellectual conversation."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henry Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MICER

EGGOU

HOMAF

RAYPER

Answer: IT'S OF

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHEAF SKULK INJECT FACIAL Answer: Why he was crestfallen when they lost the doubles match — IT WAS HIS FAULT!

Business

UAE banks to face

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial banks are pushing ahead with plans to increase their capital to face growing demand for their services and meet adequacy levels, bank figures showed Sunday.

Since the start of the year, 11 banks revealed their paid-up capital or announced funding plans, buoyed by a surge in 1997 net profits to one of their highest levels since the end of the oil boom 15 years ago.

The decision added around \$5 million, or 52.2 per cent, to the total capital of the Gulf United Bank, which has nearly \$2.6 billion at the end of April.

There is no doubt that will enable the national banks to expand their capital adequacy and overall financial position, and hence growing demand for credits," Zuhair Kassar, a prominent UAE economist, said.

India to build

NEW DELHI (R) — India will build strategic stocks of oil and gas to insulate it from future crises of war and price volatility of petroleum products, a government official said Sunday.

REUTERS

The Business

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.7938	0.7938	0.7938
DE Mark	0.5676	0.5676	0.5676
GB Sterling	1.5240	2.9726	2.9726
CH Franc	0.8731	129.44	8.41
JP Yen	0.0074	1.3317	0.48
CA Dollar	0.6908	1.2368	0.48
IT Lira	0.0008	1.9188	0.34
NL Guilder	0.4973	88.77	0.30
FR Franc	0.1687	0.2388	0.16

Currency	USD	JOD	SDS
US Dollar	1.7938	0.7938	0.7938
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.4104	1.4104
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1398	0.1398
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	1.3887	0.34
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1348	0.1348
Kuwait Dinar	2.2674	2.2674	2.2674
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1338	0.1338
Lebanese/1000	0.86	0.4488	2.02
Egyptian	0.2839	0.2839	0.2839

Energy	Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	14.37	14.33	
W. Texas	14.37	14.11	
Bonny	14.37	14.33	
Dubai	13.15	12.77	
U.S. Gas	158.00	158.00	

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1493	1.155
DE Mark	0.3958	0.3978
FR Franc	0.4758	0.478
CH Franc	0.1181	0.1187
JP Yen	0.6253	0.6275
NL Guilder	0.3517	0.3538
IT Lira	0.4018	0.4028

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Bourse	Index	Main
New York	DOW JONES	9,100
New York	S&P 500	1,100
London	FT-SE 100	5,800
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	15,000
Paris	CAC 40	3,500
Frankfurt	DAX	3,500

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UAE banks boost capital to face business growth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial banks are pushing ahead with plans to increase their capital to face growing demand for their services and meet adequacy levels, bank figures showed Sunday.

Since the start of the year, 11 banks boosted their paid-up capital or announced similar plans, buoyed by a surge in 1997 net profits to one of their highest levels since the end of the oil boom 15 years ago.

The decision added around 853 million dirhams (\$232 million) to boost the combined capital of the Gulf country's 19 national banks to nearly 8.3 billion dirhams (\$2.26 billion) at the end of April.

"There is no doubt this will enable the national banks to expand their investments, strengthen their capital adequacy and overall financial position, and face growing demand for credits," Zuhair Kaswani, a prominent UAE

stockbroker and economist said in a report citing bank balance sheets.

Several foreign banks have also raised their capital over the past year following central bank instructions to the country's 47 banking units to increase their adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equity and assets.

The central bank set the capital of each bank at a minimum 40 million dirhams (\$10.9 million) and stressed adequacy must not go below the eight per cent floor recommended by the Bank for International Settlements.

Shareholders equity, which covers the capital and reserves, has steadily grown in the past three years as a result of capital increases.

From 21.6 billion dirhams (\$5.88 billion) at the end of 1995, it rose to 23.2 billion dirhams (\$6.3 billion) at the end of 1997.

With assets standing at around 190 billion dirhams (\$51.7 billion), this means

their combined adequacy stood at 12 per cent at the end of 1997.

The capital increases were also prompted by strong demand for credits by the private sector due to an economic upturn in the UAE and other Gulf Arab states.

The central bank rules also involved curbs on such credits as they should be proportionate with the shareholders equity. The rules were intended to prevent a fresh banking crisis following the bad debt problem in the mid-1980s.

"I believe our banks are making the right move by boosting their capital. This will enable them to expand the sphere of their activities," a UAE banker said.

"It will also allow them to face growing competition as the banking sectors in all countries are opening up to each other."

The latest capital rises were made through contributions by shareholders or distribution of free shares which were

financed from the reserves.

The biggest capital increase was made by the Union National Bank (UNB). It was previously known as the Bank of Credit and Commerce Emirates and owned 40 per cent by the liquidated Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

UNB decided this year to increase capital by 45 per cent to 561.6 million dirhams (\$153 million) after it fully recovered from the BCCI collapse and started to make profits over the past two years.

Another increase was reported by Al Mashreq Bank, which suffered from brief panic withdrawals of deposits last year because of rumoured losses. It raised capital by 10 per cent to 596.2 million dirhams (\$162.3 million).

Bank International, one of the top five UAE banks, boosted capital by 25 per cent to 587.8 million dirhams (\$160.1 m).

China aims to open up for more foreign investment


BEIJING (AP) — China will use more foreign investment in construction, petrochemicals and services, the trade minister was quoted Sunday as saying.

Shi Guangsheng, head of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, also said China will offer more incentives to foreign investors who put their money into the less-developed central and western parts of the country.

The service industry will be gradually opened, including pilot projects for attracting overseas investment in tourism, water transportation, commerce, accounting, legal consulting and air transportation, Mr. Shi said in an interview with the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The report gave no details about how services or other sectors would be opened to more investment.

Foreign investment in China slowed last year. Pledged foreign direct investment decreased 29.3 per cent from \$ 73.5 billion in 1996.



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India to build strategic stocks of imported crude

NEW DELHI (R) — India will build strategic stocks of imported crude oil to insulate it from future exigencies of war and price volatility of petroleum products, a government official said Sunday.

"As in most advanced nations, India will construct storage tanks for building stocks of crude oil. These (stocks) will be for providing oil security in times of war or a war-like situation," the

official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"The stocks will be used (for producing products) in times when the international prices are too steep or too volatile."

The official clarified that the proposal had been pending since October 1995 and was floated after product prices skyrocketed to touch a new high.

"It is not a fallout of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Japan," he added. The U.S. and Japan imposed sanctions on India last week when New Delhi exploded five nuclear devices.

A government document obtained by Reuters said India's aim was to build strategic crude stock of 12.55 million tonnes, enough for keeping its refineries in operation for 45 days.

But initially, strategic cover of 4.25 million tonnes of imported crude would be built to provide for 15 days of contingent supply, said the document prepared by the petroleum ministry's planning wing, the oil coordination committee.

The scale-down to 15 days was being done to lower the cost of constructing the storage tanks and the crude import bill, and to ensure quick completion.

For the 15-day cover, India would need to build additional storage tank capacity of 5.66 million tonnes at a cost of 66.62 billion rupees (\$1.6 billion).

The total cost of the project, including crude imports, has been pegged at 87.18 billion rupees. The document said the costs would be recovered through a levy on petroleum products.

It said the strategic stocks, when added to the 15-day stock maintained under operational norms and the 15-day transit stock, would ensure 45 days' supply to refineries.

"The proposed 15 days of strategic (crude) cover, over and above the operating stocks, would enable the refineries to sustain for six weeks of operations..." said the document.

The proposal did not specify a time frame for the project but recommended the scale-down to 15 days on grounds that a 45-day cover was very large and would be difficult to complete in a "reasonable" time period.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7355	0.6188	1.4856	134.63	1.4478	1784.00	2.0109	6.5495
DE Mark	0.5776	1.0000	0.3431	0.8283	75.06	0.8089	983.81	1.1211	3.3441
GB Sterling	1.6240	2.9130	1.0000	2.4126	216.55	2.3807	2886.71	3.2857	9.7416
CH Franc	0.6731	1.2054	0.4141	1.0000	90.58	0.9737	1187.00	135.27	4.0380
JP Yen	0.0074	1.3317	0.4671	1.1031	1.0000	0.9748	13.10	149.31	4.4539
CA Dollar	0.6908	1.2386	0.4251	1.0260	1.07	1.0000	121.65	1.3887	4.1426
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0168	0.3487	0.8842	1312.61	0.8199	1.13	3.3976	10.0000
NL Guilder	0.4973	0.9177	0.3060	0.7328	66.90	0.7196	877.30	1.0000	2.9823
FR Franc	0.1667	0.2889	0.1025	0.2472	22.42	0.2413	33.52	33.5200	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7506	0.3770	3.6388	0.3601	3.6728	1513.20	3.4025
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2900	0.5317	5.1337	0.4317	5.1803	2134.27	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0816	0.98	403.48	0.9072
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8807	9.9488	1.0000	9.85	0.8118	9.74	4013.90	9.0254
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8841	1.01	415.74	0.9348
Kuwait Dinar	3.2674	2.3168	12.2549	1.2318	11.89	1.0000	12.00	4844.28	0.9348
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0206	0.9910	0.8833	1.00	412.00	0.9284
Lebanese L1000	0.06	0.4686	2.4786	0.2481	2.4054	0.2823	2.4272	1.0000	2.2485
Egyptian	0.2539	0.2084	1.1023	0.1108	1.0887	0.0899	1.0794	444.73	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil
Brent	14.37	14.33	WTI	14.47	14.11	Brent	14.37	14.33	WTI
Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent
Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent
Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent	14.37	14.33	Brent

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar
DE Mark	1.1483	1.155	DE Mark	1.1483	1.155	DE Mark	1.1483	1.155	DE Mark
GB Sterling	0.3988	0.3978	GB Sterling	0.3988	0.3978	GB Sterling	0.3988	0.3978	GB Sterling
CH Franc	0.4796	0.478	CH Franc	0.4796	0.478	CH Franc	0.4796	0.478	CH Franc
FR Franc	0.1181	0.117	FR Franc	0.1181	0.117	FR Franc	0.1181	0.117	FR Franc
JP Yen	0.0283	0.0279	JP Yen	0.0283	0.0279	JP Yen	0.0283	0.0279	JP Yen
NL Guilder	0.3517	0.3505	NL Guilder	0.3517	0.3505	NL Guilder	0.3517	0.3505	NL Guilder
IT Lira	0.0018	0.0018	IT Lira	0.0018	0.0018	IT Lira	0.0018	0.0018	IT Lira

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls	Bourse	Index
New York	DOW JONES	9098	-78.23	-0.85	9198.18	9090.82	9172.23	New York	S&P 500
New York	S&P 500	1108.73	-8.84	-0.77	1118.68	1107.11	1117.37	New York	FT-SE 100
London	FT-SE 100	5917.8	-30.7	-0.52	5983.2	5868.5	5948.5	London	Nikkei 225
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	18242.88	-44.83	-0.24	18412.8	18213.3	18307.7	Tokyo	CAC 40
Paris	CAC 40	3980.23	-21.76	-0.54	4024.35	3984.5	4011.88	Paris	DAX
Frankfurt	DAX	5393.14	31.92	0.5	5398.42	5372.84	5361.22	Frankfurt	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN SEEDS-AMT									
TELEPHONE: 657171 / 657179									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/05/1998									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
# 355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	16.6	.99	145	2840	579185	205.00	202.50
2.340	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	14.3	3.98	15	8413	14569	1.73	1.76
# 3.840	1.250	BANK OF JORDAN	4.2	0.00	2	3000	3970	1.34	1.32
# 1.300	0.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	63.1	0.00	4	25250	24040	0.95	0.91
# 2.680	1.600	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	8.81	1	1200	160	1.60	1.60
# 6.510	4.730	THE HOUSING BK.	20.7	3.07	156	135891	448920	3.21	3.26
# 4.180	1.790	JOR. ECON. DEV. BK.	9	0.00	11	4987	3748	1.99	1.95
# 920	590	JOR. CREDIT BANK	4.2	9.86	11	23300	16543	.72	.71
# 4.020	1.740	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	19.3	0.00	25	22200	41621	1.85	1.89
# 3.900	1.450	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	12.5	8.17	3	400	842	1.60	1.62
1.400	.800	REIT-AL-NOL (REITING)	4.6	0.00	17	5850	5527	.94	.94
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 277.37	CHNG: -0.63	390	232231	1144925		
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH TRAVEL	6.1	11.36	4	400	884	2.20	2.20
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.20	CHNG: 0.00	4	400	884		
2.240	1.620	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.0	5.37	12	6295	12906	2.05	2.05
6.100	3.550	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	14.3	4.31	4	138950	591236	4.42	4.46
1.550	.970	WAT. PORTFOLIO	44.3	0.00	19	9700	10766	1.11	1.11
# 590	330	JORDAN TRADING	19.4	0.00	8	2600	1118	0.43	0.43
# 4.600	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. CO.	10.4	1.90	15	12750	26775	2.00	2.10
1.090	.900	JARCA EDUCATION	16.3	0.00	2	250	233	.92	.93
1.830	1.450	UTILIZED CO.	6.7	7.28	3	500	755	1.53	1.51
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 214.75	CHNG: +2.30	64	171061	643804		
1.160	.960	ATANKERS	9	0.00	1	1000	1100	1.10	1.10
4.450	2.450	JOR. CONCRETE FACT.	14.9	4.38	31	29374	74272	2.53	2.51
# 7.050	5.470	ARAB PETROLEUM	26.7	3.69	2	3000	3261	5.47	5.42
# 11.250	2.970	JOR. PETROLEUM	10.1	8.56	6	315	3276	10.40	10.39
1.470	1.040	MOORE INDUSTRIES	11.7	6.76	14	3000	4372	1.41	1.48
2.070	1.200	INDUSTRIAL CONGR.	9	0.00	3	400	492	1.22	1.23
5.740	3.620	ARAB PETROLEUM	15.0	3.66	91	76950	418030	5.43	5.46
2.940	2.250	JORDAN DAILY	5.9	10.44	3	157	417	2.65	2.66
6.350	4.650	DAR ALADDA JV. INV.	6.7	6.25	2	700	3920	5.76	5.60
2.220	1.400	ARAB ALUM. IND.	19.4	0.00	8	2600	1118	0.43	0.43
.570	.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	15.9	0.00	5	4400	2068	.47	.47
.620	.510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	4	8000	4220	.52	.53
.760	.530	TECHNICAL PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	30	56510	23994	.42	.43
2.020	1.260	DEV. CHEM. INDUS.	12.9	6.35	2	300	382	1.26	1.26
3.000	.920	NATL. CASE & WRE. FACT.	27.4	0.00	4	3150	3530	1.13	1.14
# 730	.530	JOR. TRADING	19.4	0.00	8	2600	1118	.43	.43
1.560	1.150	DEV. CHEM. INDUS.	12.9	6.35	25	17400	24501	1.38	1.39
# 1.540	.810	DEV. HOUS. INDUS.	14.0	6.82	7	4546	4022	.89	.88
1.200	.670	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	9.3	14.49	4	2100	1429	.69	.69
1.220	.620	REIT-AL-NOL (REITING)	4.6	0.00	17	5850	5527	.94	.94
1.080	.810	JOR. NEW CASE CO.	12.6	11.24	10	4500	4005	.88	.89
1.310	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.69	12	7800	9821	1.24	1.23
1.220	.870	OFFICE CP. & VEG.	11.1	0.00	4	750	827	1.10	1.11
.860	.660	JORDAN STEEL	8.8	8.86	29	18950	15125	.80	.79
.680	.570	MID-EAST COMPLEX	10.3	0.00	35	38700	22236	.59	.57
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 103.37	CHNG: -0.66	342	287842	634572		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 181.97	CHNG: -0.50	800	691534	2424284		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/05/1998									
# 1.050	.910	EXPORT & FTR. BKK. 75%	18.0	0.00	27	39150	27609	.94	.97
.620	.490	HAUCE, BQP, KERT. HAJM.	28.0	0.00	1	500	255	.51	.51
.400	.300	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	3	2000	600	.30	.30
.310	.230	JOR. TRADING FNC.	9	0.00	26	5750	24391	.46	.46
.620	.360	ARAB FTR. INVEST.	9	0.00	12	23000	9510	.41	.42
# 2.220	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	1	250	388	1.48	1.55
.290	.220	JOR. ECON. DEV. BK.	9	0.00	11	4987	3750	.48	.47
.600	.370	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	7	3750	418	.12	.12
.470	.240	ARAB INTL. INV. CO.	40.3	0.00	4	5000	1703	.35	.35
.360	.260	ACT-NOL (REITING) BANKING	9	0.00	54	217500	90680	.43	.41
.550	.310	HAUCE, BQP, KERT. HAJM.	28.0	0.00	1	500	255	.51	.51
.520	.400	ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	1	250	100	.42	.40
.580	.460	MOORE INDUSTRIES	11.7	6.76	14	3000	4372	.41	.42
.430	.340	INDS. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	1850	803	.28	.28
.890	.470	INDS. CERAMIC	13.1	0.00	5	3990	1996	.51	.50
# .910	.580	AMMAN ECON. DEV. BK.	9	0.00	15	12250	7904	.63	.65
.570	.370	PELAGI S.M. P. COV.	7	0.00	1	750	500	.50	.50
.710	.430	NATL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.69	12	7800	9821	.53	.54
# .950	.700	OFFICE CP. & VEG.	11.1	0.00	23	29500	16337	.63	.65
# 1.310	1.000	HAUCE, BQP, KERT. HAJM.	28.0	0.00	3	3050	3203	1.07	1.05
# 1.000	.750	KERAT. PRINT CO. 75%	12.0	9.59	1	1000	540	.79	.79
GRAND TOTAL					208	451044	210643		
T : New 12 months high + : New 12 months low # : Stock divided during the past 12 months - : Listed during the past 12 months									

Derby winner Real Quiet captures 123rd Preakness

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Kentucky Derby winner Real Quiet scored a three-length victory Saturday in the second jewel of U.S. flat racing's Triple Crown, the 123rd running of the Preakness Stakes.

Real Quiet, with Kent Desormeaux up, used the same move Saturday that won the Derby two weeks ago, coming four-wide around the clubhouse turn and blowing away the competition down the stretch to win in 1:54 3/5.

The morning-line favourite, Real Quiet went off as the 5-2 second choice. Victory Gallop, runner-up to Real Quiet in the Derby, settled for second again under Gary Stevens.

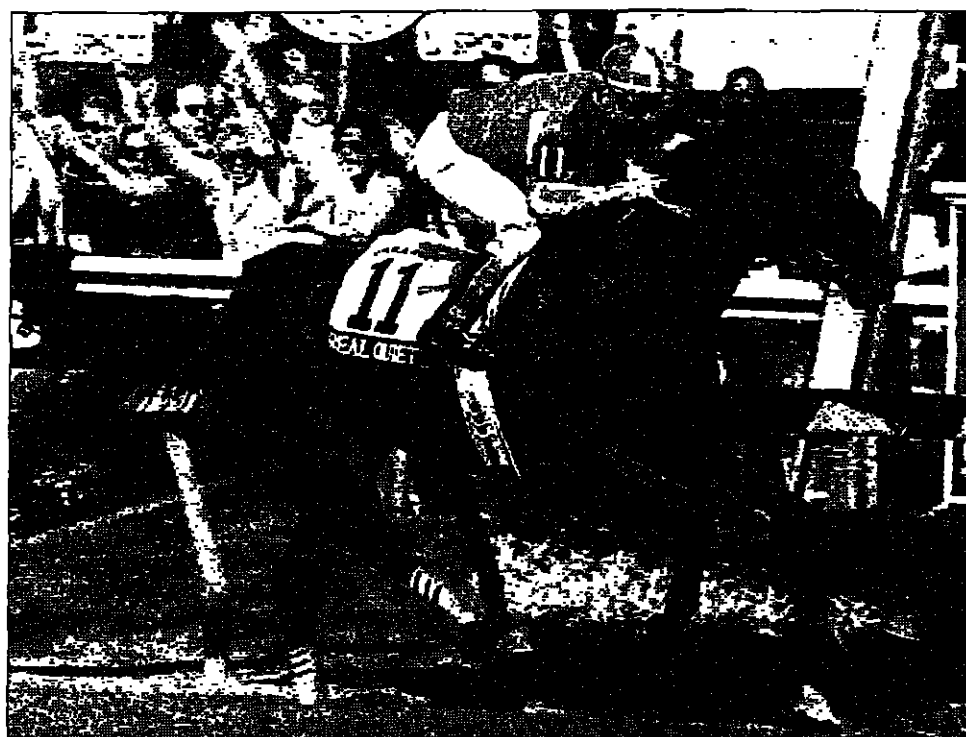
Classic Cat, with Robby Albarado aboard, was third. Real Quiet trainer Bob Baffert, who saddled Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm last year, became the first trainer in history to condition back-to-back winners in the first two Triple Crown races. Baffert has trained the winners in four of the last five Triple Crown events.

Real Quiet became just the second horse to win the Preakness from the 10th post, joining 1962 winner Greek Money.

"He's doing better than he was for the Derby," Baffert said. "When he came in here he wasn't that tired and he trained well with all the people around him. I think people will take him serious now."

Baquero, the D. Wayne Lukas-trained speedster, led the field to the quarter-mile in 23 2/5, with Black Cash and Basic Trainee in tow. The trio took the field to the half-mile in 46 1/5 while battling temperatures above 90 degrees.

Victory Gallop, trained by first-time Preakness starter Elliott Walden, and Lukas' other entrant, Cape Town, joined the leaders as the



Real Quiet, with jockey Kent Desormeaux up, crosses the finish line to win the 123rd Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Track. Real Quiet has now captured the first two jewels of horse racing's triple crown (Reuters photo)

field roared to three-quarters in 1:11. Real Quiet began coming fastest on the outside and got his head in front as they turned for home.

"I tried to take control of the race at the half-mile mark," Stevens said. "Real Quiet was outside and behind us most of the trip. I was able to make the move I wanted to but Kent was able to breeze by me when he wanted to."

"I nudged him a little bit and he went by them," Desormeaux said. "Right after that is was like where did they go?"

In the stretch, it was all Real Quiet. He pulled away, opening a big lead. At one point, Desormeaux even glanced back to check on the competition.

Victory Gallop was closer to the pack than in the Derby, when he came from out of nowhere to take second. Again, he was unable to run down Real Quiet

before the wire. "No match for the winner today," Stevens said. "No excuses for my horse. It was a gutty little horse I rode but Real Quiet just ran away from him."

Real Quiet won for the fourth time in 14 career starts and posted back-to-back victories for the first time in his career.

"I learned what the Preakness was and I also found out that Santa Claus does come to Maryland in May," Real Quiet owner Mike Pegram said. "I love hot weather. I love Maryland and I love Real Quiet."

Real Quiet took home the winner's share of \$650,000, but that would pale in comparison to the \$5 million bonus he would secure by winning the Belmont.

The last horse to win the Triple Crown — the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes — was Affirmed in 1978.

Affirmed was the third horse to do it in the 1970s, after Seattle Slew in 1977 and Secretariat in 1973. Before that the gap stretched back to Citation in 1948.

A transformer fire near a parking lot knocked out power for about 4-1/2 hours before the race and shut down betting in the clubhouse and grandstand. Minutes after the fire erupted at 1:20 p.m. (1720 GMT), an air conditioner burst into flames near the jockeys' locker room.

No injuries were reported. Betting was uninterrupted in the infield but power was not restored to some sections of the track until more than an hour after the race.

Track president Joe DeFrancis said he never considered cancelling the Preakness. He estimated losses of about \$2 million in wagering.

Basler boosts Bayern in German Cup

BERLIN (AFP) — A goal two minutes from time by "Super Mario" Basler gave Bayern Munich their ninth German Cup on Saturday as the Bavarian giants came from behind to beat MSV Duisburg 2-1 at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Togoese striker Bachirou Salou had fired Duisburg into a 20th-minute lead after out-pacing veteran Lothar Matthaeus and then hammering home an unstoppable low drive past Oliver Kahn in the Bayern goal.

But after looking very much second best in the opening 45 minutes, Bayern upped the momentum after the break.

And their pressure told on 70 minutes when Markus Babel turned in the equaliser from five yards out following a goalmouth scramble which caused confusion in the Duisburg defence. Basler then conjured the winner with 100 seconds remaining with a curling freekick that eluded everyone and dropped lamely into the net.

It was Bayern's first domestic Cup win for 12 years and gave departing Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni a winning send-off in his last match in charge.

Trapattoni, 59, later told German television that he was having talks with Fiorentina as he mulled over a return to the Serie A.

"I think I will go to Fiorentina, but it's not yet finalised. There are still many loose ends to tie up," said Trapattoni.

"But it will be a great challenge and a test for me."

Matthaeus, recently recalled to the German World Cup squad, meanwhile said winning the Cup made up for other disappointments this season.

"We're delighted to have won the Cup after things didn't work out for us in the Champions League and the Bundesliga," said the veteran libero.

World Cup countdown with Franz Beckenbauer

Are you a World Cup expert? Then let me challenge you

3) Diego Armando Maradona was, without a shadow of a doubt, one of the great protagonists of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Had it not been for him, I might have won my first World Cup as coach. Perhaps you remember: We were playing in the final against that Argentinian team which virtually danced to the rhythms dictated by the "Pibe de Oro," the golden boy — Diego Maradona.

It was his pass to Burruchaga which broke the 2-2 draw my players had achieved after Argentina's initial 2-0. I was made to wait four years until Italy in 1990 to win a World Cup as trainer. But when all is said and done, to watch Maradona in that tournament in Mexico

was pure delight. Especially in England.

His second goal against the British team was a miracle. It looked as if the ball was sewn to his boot. His first goal was the subject of much comment, as you know, because of its illegality. Maradona, with the same slyness that characterised him on the pitch, said after the game that the hand which propelled the ball into the English net was "the hand of God."

And even though Uruguayan author Mario Benedetti insists that the goal is "the only conclusive proof as to the existence of God," the whole world faithful and agnostic — knows it was the hand of Diego.

But... was it the left? Or the right?

Facts and figures about the participating countries

BELGIUM

30,528 sq km · Capital: Brussels
Population: 10,130,574 — 331.8 per sq km (1994)
Principal languages: Flemish, French
Annual GNP per capita: US\$ 22,920. — (1994)

Participation in World Cup championships:

Solve the geography question daily to find the phrase at the end of Beckenbauer's World Cup countdown

3) This country consists of a very dry northern half with much savannah and a tropical south, covered in rainforest. The highest mountain is a still active volcano. Thanks to high levels of oil exports, the population fared significantly better for a while in the 1980s than in most of the surrounding countries. This wasn't always so. "Merchants bought slaves, ivory and raw rubber," runs a description in a reference book on the history of the country. France and Britain together ousted the colonial power Germany and divided up the spoils between them. Since independence, both English and French are recognised as the official languages of the country. More than 200 ethnic groups co-exist more or less peacefully. A footballer from this country became a national hero at a World Cup competition, striking fear with his 39 years into the hearts of much younger stars. Four years later at 42 years and 39 days, he broke the record for the oldest participant at any World Cup tournament. For years there have been violent border conflicts between this country and its neighbour, which is also taking part in the World Cup in

SOLUTION TO THE WORLD CUP COUNTRY CONTEST
The phrase we are looking for offers a rather precise, though harsh definition of an ability considered indispensable in the world of diplomats.

Please fill in the respective letters in the corresponding positions:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65
66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

© GMA 1998

What's wrong here?



World Cup 1970. Brazil, led by Pele and with one of the best teams of all time, are crowned World Champions, after beating Italy 4-1 in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium. It is Brazil's third World Cup. Pele uses his moment of glory to announce he would not be pulling on the Brazil national team shirt ever again. However, he will continue to play for his league team, Santos, until 1974.

Rios, Costa sweep through to Italian Open final

ROME (AFP) — Marcelo Rios won seven games in a row before Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten got started as the Chilean World No. 3 stormed into his second straight final 6-0, 7-5 here on Saturday at the \$2.45 million Italian Open.

Rios, who lost to Spaniard Alex Corretja a year ago in a title match at the Foro Italico, will take on another Spanish opponent as he plays Albert Costa on Sunday.

The unseeded Costa beat compatriot Alberto Berasategui 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the afternoon's first semi-final.

"I played very well and hit the ball cleanly," said Rios. "I felt good on court, especially from the baseline. I knew exactly how to play."

Rios said he was not over-confident for the best-of-five-set Sunday final because "Costa is playing really good and has confidence."

But he warned: "I'm fresh and haven't had that many tough matches. I'm really excited to play and try to win another super 9."

Rios, winner of the year's first two Mercedes Super 9 events in America in March, showed that he has almost fully recovered from the elbow injury which kept him from playing an ATP Tour match in April after taking over the world Number one ranking from



Chilean Marcelo Rios reacts after winning his semi-final match at the Italian Open against Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten. Rios won 6-0 7-5 to advance to the final where he will face Spaniard Albert Costa (Reuters photo)

Pete Sampras.

The Chilean said the elbow still gives him some pain at night and need treatment. "But I'm feeling much better than I did two weeks ago," he added.

Kuerten conceded that Rios now has an excellent chance of dethroning him

in Paris at the French Open, which starts next week.

"He's the best player this year so far," said Kuerten. "He has the chance to win any event. There is no favourite for the French Open, but he is one of the guys who has more chance."

Rios ran away with the first set as he and Kuerten met for the first time as professionals. Rios won all three clashes they played as juniors.

The Chilean built his triumph on the back of two breaks, which took him swiftly to 5-0.

Kuerten then let a 40-0 lead in the sixth game go to waste and Rios closed out the set with an easy forehand winner in little more than a quarter of an hour on Centre Court.

Rios kept up his devastating pace, slicing over a smooth backhand volley to begin the second set 1-0.

Kuerten drew a round of applause and raised his hands in mock triumph as he won his first game of the match with an ace for 1-1. "I couldn't play my game," admitted Kuerten. "I couldn't play my best shots. Zero-seven was a tough start."

"I couldn't play relaxed. I was always trying to win my first game. After that I felt more comfortable. I was able to play a normal match afterwards."

As the Brazilian's game returned, the equilibrium of the match stabilised with Kuerten levelling at 4-4 when Rios put a forehand out of the corner.

The Chilean then earned the only break of the second set as the Brazilian produced a backhand error to

lose. Rios will remain third in the world next week regardless of how he does on Sunday.

Saturday's first semi-final saw Costa dropping his first set in almost two weeks.

The Spaniard, ranked 20th in the world, last lost a set in the first round of the German Open against Andrei Medvedev a week ago on Monday.

Since then, the 22-year-old from Barcelona has been untouchable except for his one losing set against Berasategui, the 12th seed.

"It was really hot," said Costa, who took a pill from the trainer to help him fight heat and fatigue.

"I had the luck in the third set, that's what made the difference," he added. Costa will be bidding for his eighth career title on Sunday after winning his previous seven on clay.

He grabbed a 4-3 lead in the deciding set, but lost the edge when 1994 French Open finalist Berasategui broke back.

Costa secured the victory in one hour 49 minutes as he broke for 5-3 and served out the victory, winning on first match point with an unreachable cross-court forehand.

"It was as much mental as physical out there," said the winner. It was hard work for both of us. I'm tired, but I'll be ready to play the final."

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1' Bruce Willis & Gary Oldman ... in THE FIFTH ELEMENT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PHILADELPHIA '2' ED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA The biggest cinema production TITANIC Shows: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	CONCORD CONCORD '1' Farouq Fikri & Wafa Amr ... in HANHEB WANNAB (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN FORGET PARIS & still showing evenings TITANIC	GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES & still showing evenings TITANIC	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 4625155 STARTING APRIL 6TH Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Ramia Kurdi and the group at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155
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Sports

Utah crus

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) —

Nat Williams scored 29 points and the Utah Jazz's point guard finished an attack which threatened an attack of its own Saturday in a 112-105 win at the Los Angeles Lakers in Game One of the National Basketball Association

semi-final series. Malone, joined more on power than his inside jumper, gave the shot 11 points in the third and 10 in the fourth. After a relatively quiet first half, he scored 10 points in the second quarter as he forced the Lakers to play in the

second quarter. Malone said he had a plan to be waiting for the Lakers to make the game into a defensive battle. But you don't want to be defensive, you want to be offensive.

The Jazz, who trailed 10-16 at the first half because their reserves struggled, the Lakers, helped by a rebound lead, Howard and much-maligned forward Chris Morris, came back to contribute to the points in the first

half. The second quarter, Esley finished with 14 points and Morris added 10, all in the first half. Reserves Andrew Gault and Shandon Anderson also had 10 points apiece and Anderson grabbed 11 rebounds.

Lakers' coach Phil Jackson said the Lakers' reserves, 5'11" and 6'5", finished out nine points.

"Early on in the game I had some good looks. I shot a few, but they were blocked," he said.

"I shot a few pretty much all night long. I shot a few, but they were blocked," he said.

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